

## Actor Gene Kelly suffers mild stroke

LOS ANGELES (R) — Gene Kelly, the actor, dancer and choreographer, was admitted to the hospital Saturday afternoon after suffering a mild stroke, a spokesman said. Kelly, 71, was in the city for a performance of his new musical, "Singin' in the Rain," at the Los Angeles Music Center. Kelly, who has danced with the American Ballet Theatre, was admitted to the hospital after a seizure. He was in the city for a performance of his new musical, "Singin' in the Rain," at the Los Angeles Music Center. Kelly, who has danced with the American Ballet Theatre, was admitted to the hospital after a seizure. He was in the city for a performance of his new musical, "Singin' in the Rain," at the Los Angeles Music Center.

## U.K. mother: baby lost weight during kidnap

LONDON (R) — A British mother whose baby was kidnapped last month said the child had lost weight during the 10-day ordeal. The mother, who is not naming the child, said the baby was found in a car in the north of England. The child was found in a car in the north of England. The mother, who is not naming the child, said the baby was found in a car in the north of England. The child was found in a car in the north of England. The mother, who is not naming the child, said the baby was found in a car in the north of England.

## Clinton rocks 'I' rolls at reunion

OT SPRINGS, Ark. (AP) — President Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary, were reunited with their first-grade class at a reunion in Arkansas. Clinton and his wife were reunited with their first-grade class at a reunion in Arkansas. Clinton and his wife were reunited with their first-grade class at a reunion in Arkansas. Clinton and his wife were reunited with their first-grade class at a reunion in Arkansas.

## Lebanon: No deal without Syria

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon will stick with Syria and will not opt for a separate peace deal with Israel, President Elias Hrawi said Tuesday. Mr. Hrawi declined in an interview to comment on the peace process. He said Lebanon is committed to a comprehensive peace and will stand with Syria. He said Lebanon is committed to a comprehensive peace and will stand with Syria. He said Lebanon is committed to a comprehensive peace and will stand with Syria.

## Jordan Times

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## King and Rabin address U.S. Congress

Both leaders reaffirm unwavering commitment to peace in Mideast  
HM says Jordan seeks 'normality and humanity' as prevailing order

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Tuesday reaffirmed their commitment to peace in a joint session of the U.S. Congress, sealing the Washington Declaration they signed one day earlier.

While the King declared to the American legislators in the packed chamber that "the state of war between Israel and Jordan is over," Mr. Rabin proclaimed, "Let us

today be victorious in ending war."

It was an unprecedented dual appearance before the U.S. Congress by the two leaders after 46 years of bitter conflict.

While the King's speech focused mainly on Jordan's quest for peace and the human side of the conflict in the region and enthusiastically spoke about a fundamental change in the Middle Eastern political map, Mr. Rabin devoted a good part of his address to the theme of Israeli lives lost in war.

Mr. Rabin's speech was unmistakably meant to be a

reminder of the Jewish argument of being haunted and persecuted over the centuries and paying a high price for Israel's "survival" in a hostile Middle East.

Mr. Rabin also sought to underline Israel's claim that Jerusalem is its "eternal, indivisible capital" by repeating "we have come from Jerusalem to Washington..." and referring to Amman and the Holy City on similar equating terms.

Both leaders received standing ovations from the audience, and the King was visibly overcome by the enthusiastic response and re-

(Continued from page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin receive applause from members of the U.S. Congress at their joint appearance in the legislature on Tuesday (AFP photo)

## Regent: Peace should benefit people

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Tuesday the real test for the developments in the peace process is whether real gains for the people can be achieved in the future. Addressing participants in a conference for Arab American University Graduates (see story on page 3), the Regent urged Arab Americans to play a larger role in explaining Arab causes to the American public opinion and improving the stereotype perception of Islam in the West. He also urged them during a luncheon at Al Hashimiyeh Palace to contribute to scientific research and studies and take part in setting up research and information centres in Jordan and the rest of the Arab World. The Crown Prince called on participants in the conference not to limit their activities to the gathering and to address other important issues in the Kingdom, pointing to the role played by Al Beit University in conducting studies about democracy, shura, Muslim-Christian relations and Islamic positions. The Crown Prince expressed the belief that the gap with advanced societies can be bridged, especially in terms of utilising available resources and funds.

## Clinton restates pledge to Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton on Tuesday again promised His Majesty King Hussein that he was committed to helping Jordan relieve its U.S. debt and meet its defence needs.

At a news conference with King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Mr. Clinton described

the two leaders as "heroes of peace" and said "America will stand by those who take risks for peace."

President Clinton already is committed to forgiving \$680 million Jordan owes the United States. Israel, meanwhile, is the largest recipient of U.S. economic and military aid, more than \$3 billion a year.

King Hussein and Mr. Rabin sharply condemned (Continued from page 7)

## Jordan in throes of transformation process after historic Washington events

From George Hawatmeh in Washington

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's series of meetings over the past two days with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, coupled with his historic address to a joint session of Congress, are the beginning of a transformation process in Jordan's modern history which could bring with it tremendous political and economic benefits to this country and its people.

The ending of the state of war with Israel, and the

political circumstances in which this has been accomplished, indicate that the "mentality of survival" which has governed Jordanian thinking for many decades has come to a close, heralding in the process a new era of progressive dynamics at home and positive interaction with the rest of the world.

There are, of course, elements of risk involved in what the King aptly called, in his speech to the Congress yesterday, the state of

progression from a state of war to peace. But it is exactly because Jordan is taking such risks that the United States, at least, is willing and ready "to walk the final miles" with us, as President Clinton stated in his South Lawn speech on Monday.

Jordanian leaders who are accompanying His Majesty on this trip are both downsize and prepared to take the risks, for the "time has come anyway" to put Jordan "back on the map" and ensure for

## Despite the risks, Kingdom stands to reap tremendous advantages

its people their rights, whether in territory, water, security, development or progress.

"What we are doing here is trying to put Jordanian interests above everything else," says Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali. "Nobody else will do it for us otherwise," he adds, stressing that Jordan at the same time was neither compromising Arab interests nor undermining the cause of Arab nationalism.

Although it appears that officials have not yet begun articulating an offensive information policy to match the political initiatives of recent days, preferring instead to remain more on the defensive side, it is well understood by the leadership generally that what the King has decided to achieve here in the U.S. capital will be pursued in vigour and determination on all state levels.

The view, held by some

Jordanians, that developments were taking place at too fast a pace, is taken well into consideration by the leadership. The difference in pace, however, has not been a high priority issue compared to the immediate and ultimate objectives that have been set for the Washington round of historic events.

Take, for instance, the question of whether Jordan had to go beyond ending the state of belligerency

with Israel to declare the end of the state of war, which entail different legal interpretations, as far as experts are concerned. The outstanding political consideration here was the American factor, namely whether the U.S. administration and Congress, would have not liked Jordan to go beyond the first into the second in order to cut a final deal on scrapping the Kingdom's \$750m debt and supplying the

armed forces with new weapons.

When it became apparent to His Majesty that the difference between the two states paled in comparison to the political and economic advantages of doing the latter, he did not hesitate to declare the end of the state of war with Israel. The King did in fact say in his speech on the South Lawn, where the signing of (Continued on page 6)

## Washington Declaration sets framework for peace — Anani

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs and Minister of Information Jawad Al Anani said Monday that the Washington declaration signed Monday provides for Jordan and Israel to pursue negotiations to reach peace in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Those two resolutions provide for the settlement of the Palestinian refugees problem which Jordan insists must be solved in its entirety, Dr. Anani told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

For this purpose a joint committee comprising delegates from Egypt, Jordan, Palestine and Israel has been formed to discuss the displaced persons' question in view of the fact that such complicated problems cannot be solved through Jordanian-Israeli negotiations alone, Dr. Anani said.

"Jordan is keen to see the

refugees problem solved fairly and to the satisfaction of the refugees who should either be offered the right to repatriation or compensation," he said.

He expressed the view that this problem will take a long time to settle but will be handled under the framework of the U.N. resolutions.

Referring to the clause on negotiations on economic matters, Dr. Anani said that it entails working towards ending all forms of economic boycotts.

What the two sides agreed on, he added, is to work towards achieving this goal and abolishing boycotts which are of two kinds: One that has no economic basis and more justified that which pertains to boycotting companies with investments in Israel and one which calls for boycotting international firms that employ Israeli-made inputs and components

in their industries.

With regard to the question of Jerusalem and the holy places the declaration has made it clear that Israel respects the special role of Jordan and the Kingdom's historic rights in supervising these holy places, the minister said.

"This clause was necessary to underline Jordan's keenness on its role and reflects King Hussein's determination to keep the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque among other shrines under the care of the Awqaf department, which is run by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in Amman," the minister said.

The Palestinians and the Israelis, he said, have decided to delay discussion over the status of Jerusalem until after the end of the self-rule term. The King, in his drive to safeguard the holy places (Continued from page 7)

## Sharaa: No 'real' peace without Syria

PARIS (Agencies) — Lasting peace in the Middle East is impossible without Syria, despite the Washington Declaration formally ending the state of war between Israel and Jordan, the Syrian foreign minister said here Tuesday.

Farouk Al Sharaa told reporters that the declaration and summit in Washington Monday between King Hussein and Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would not affect the stalled Israeli-Syrian track of the peace process.

"To say that progress in the other tracks has weakened Syria does not correspond with reality," Mr. Sharaa said after meeting French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

"Without Syria, there will be no stable or lasting peace... and Syria remains the key partner of the peace negotiations aimed at achieving a comprehensive settlement in the region."

He had explained to Mr. Balladur that failure to make progress on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks would make it "difficult to keep up the dynamics of peace."

Israel and the United States, the main sponsor of the peace process, have voiced hopes that the breakthrough with Jordan would lead to progress on the Syrian track.

Syria and Lebanon, where Damascus is a major power broker, have lagged behind the Palestinians and Jordan in the peace process.

Mr. Sharaa was at the start of a two-day visit to France, following a Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last week aimed at reviving the Israel-Syria peace negotiations.

In Moscow, Russian Foreign Ministry official Victor Posuvalyuk said Tuesday that Russia intended to push negotiations for an Israel-Syria peace agreement.

"Russia recognises the importance of the Washington Declaration but also believes it is necessary to advance in

the direction of Syria and Lebanon," he told a press conference.

In its role as co-sponsor of peace negotiations, Mr. Posuvalyuk said Russia would work for a "global resolution" of the Middle East conflict during his visit to Damascus and Beirut in mid-August.

In Damascus, the government remained silent over the Jordanian-Israeli peace breakthrough in Washington but, in a possible taboo-shattering omen, let the country see it on TV.

Syria has criticised Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for negotiating peace deals with Israel.

But despite its reservations, President Hafez Al Assad's government maintains that the Jordanian-Israeli meeting will not seriously affect Syria's position.

Perhaps in a sign of things to come, the government for the first time allowed its citizens a long look at an Israeli leader on television. The state-run station aired the speeches by King Hussein, Mr. Rabin and President Clinton, the summit host.

Layla Mohammad, a university student, was more philosophical — and less critical.

"It was a good move, but I wish that the Arab leaders would get closer one to the other," she said.

Despite the Syrian government's silence, the agreement got lots of print but poor reviews in the newspapers, which mirror government thinking.

The Tishrin daily splashed the story across six columns, declaring Monday "a black day in Jordan's history," a slogan borrowed from a small anti-peace demonstration in Amman.

Like other newspapers, Tishrin reported most of the developments matter-of-factly showing photographs of the two leaders shaking hands.

(Continued on page 6)

## Jordan says its role in Jerusalem is unpoliticised

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordanian officials said Tuesday the Israeli acknowledgement of a "special" Jordanian role in Jerusalem had no political connotations.

"We know that the PLO blesses the Jordanian role of guardianship over the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem," said Rafiq Al Khatib, head of the Jordanian-run Waqf, or religious endowments organisation, in the Holy City.

"So far the Palestinians have not sought any role for themselves in the Waqf, and we don't believe that Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have any sensitivities over Jerusalem," Mr. Khatib told the Associated Press.

Izzeddine Tamimi, the King's adviser on religious affairs, said a document signed between King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington on Tuesday was merely "a

reaffirmation of the role undertaken by the Jordanian Hashemites in the upkeep of Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem."

"It is also a reaffirmation that, naturally, the Jordanian guardianship of the holy shrines in Jerusalem will not cease," Sheikh Tamimi said.

The Jordanian comments came shortly after PLO officials said the reference to Jerusalem in the Washington document violated the Israel-PLO autonomy accord.

The autonomy pact, signed in Washington in September, established Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Talks are under way to spread self-rule throughout the West Bank but negotiations on the status of Jerusalem itself have been put off until later.

The city, which is holy to Christians, Jews and Muslims, will be the subject of talks beginning in the third

year of the five-year autonomy period.

Analysts said the Washington document could also ruffle Saudi King Fahd, who carries the title "custodian of the two holy places" — Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia — and would like to spread his influence to Jerusalem.

King Hussein renounced all claims to the West Bank in 1988, but retained his links with the Islamic holy shrines in Arab East Jerusalem by continuing to pay millions of dollars to the Waqf in the city.

Since then he repeatedly has said he will not let go of the Hashemite claim to guardianship of the Islamic holy shrines and will accept "the sovereignty of no one but God's" over the holy sites.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat meanwhile lobbied Arab (Continued on page 6)

## Deputies reaffirm support for peace; political parties differ

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein's visit to the United States and his efforts to establish a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region and ensure Jordan's sovereignty over its territories and water received wide public support.

Several deputies hailed the King's visit as an important step to push the peace process in the region.

Deputy Abdul Hafeth Al Shakhaneh said the King's decision to go to the United States was the culmination of the Jordanian leadership's quest for achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region, and not a temporary truce.

Dr. Shakhaneh voiced hopes that the King's efforts will not only lead to restoration of the occupied Jordanian territories and regaining Jordan's water rights, but also to finding solutions to the major problem, the problem of the refugees and dis-

placed persons, and enabling them to go back to their homeland and exercise their legitimate rights.

Dr. Shakhaneh expressed hope that the meeting the King held with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will culminate in a peace treaty acceptable to all Arab parties concerned, including the Palestinians.

He voiced hope that the United States and Europe will arrange to ensure the forgiveness of a great part of Jordan's foreign debt.

Deputy Samih Al Farah described the Washington summit as a turning point in the Arab-Israeli conflict and voiced hope that it will result in economic gains for Jordan including debt forgiveness and foreign aid and investments in Jordan.

Mr. Farah said the restoration of Jordan's territory and its water was an important factor in ensuring regional stability. He said a peace

treaty between Jordan and Israel is set to end the state of war and save much of Jordan's resources, which will then be channelled to development.

Deputy Taha Hababbeh said Jordan was seeking the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

He added that Jordan did not act unilaterally when it decided to attend the peace talks.

"What Jordan is doing now is its natural right," he said. He added that the Jordanian leadership reflects the hopes and aspirations of the Jordanian people.

Deputy Nazih Ammarin said the decisive and important political decision on Jordan's security and existence should be taken in isolation of passions and wishes.

"The decision should arise from the country's higher in-

terests," he said. He added that the Jordanian leadership reflects the hopes and aspirations of the Jordanian people.

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## Arab League, U.N. welcome Jordan-Israel declaration

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Arab League on Tuesday welcomed the signing of a peace declaration between Israel and Jordan ending 46 years of hostilities between the two countries, and said it was "an important development" in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

"The signing... in Washington represents an important development in the stages of the Arab-Israeli conflict," Arab League Secretary General Esmet Abdul Meguid said.

"The Arab League supports any Arab country who retrieves its legitimate rights," he added.

The joint declaration, signed by King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the White House lawn Monday, is a step towards a comprehensive peace settlement, Dr. Abdul Meguid said.

He added that it should be followed by similar progress in the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace process. On Monday, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa also hailed the Jordan-Israel pact but warned that there would not be comprehensive peace until there is progress with Syria and Lebanon.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali also welcomed the Washington Declaration.

"The secretary-general warmly welcomes the signing of the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel. He applauds the statesmanship shown by His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin which culminated in the historic signing ceremony at the White House. He is very encouraged by this new development and hopes this will accelerate the process of achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East," Dr. Ghali said

in a statement.

The Japanese government said: "the signing of the Washington Declaration is an accomplishment following the declaration of the principles on the Palestinian interim self-government in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in September last year and the start of the Palestinian interim self-government in May this year in the Middle East peace process which began in October 1991."

"The government of Japan heartily welcomes this and highly values the efforts made by the negotiators and the countries which co-hosted the peace process," a government statement said.

"The government of Japan hopes that this declaration will have a good effect on the peace negotiations between Israel and Syria as well as those between Israel and Lebanon, and mark a fresh step towards a comprehensive peace," it said.



## Beirut negotiators await Israeli withdrawal pledge

BEIRUT (R) — Artillery duels often devastate parts of South Lebanon as guerrillas harass Israeli troops on the Middle East's last battle line, but the Beirut government seems in no rush to speed up peace talks that could send the Israelis packing.

While Israel signed an autonomy deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) last year and Jordan is making strides towards peace, the Lebanese-Israeli track has been frozen for months.

Just as Syria is seeking an Israeli pledge to pull out of the Golan Heights before there can be a breakthrough in peace talks, Beirut demands an Israeli commitment to withdraw from South Lebanon before it will discuss ways and means to peace.

When U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley asked Lebanese President Elias Hrawi this month to raise the level of peace talks to foreign minister level, Mr. Hrawi refused, Lebanese sources said.

Last week, when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher repeated the request to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, he replied that both Syria and Lebanon would consider raising the level of their delegations only when there was progress on the two tracks, the sources said.

Mr. Assad, whose 35,000

troops in Lebanon make him the country's ultimate power broker, personally asked Mr. Christopher for an Israeli commitment to withdraw from its occupation zone in South Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley.

The Syrian president promised that once the pledge was made he would ask Mr. Hrawi to form a joint Lebanese-Israeli military committee to work out security measures safeguarding northern Israel against guerrilla attack, and a reasonable timetable for an Israeli pull-out.

Israel's repeated demands in the past for formation of the committee have met Lebanese demands for an Israeli commitment to withdraw.

Each time, the Israelis reply that they will make the commitment once Beirut disbands the Hizbollah group whose 2,000 Iranian-trained and equipped guerrillas harass its troops daily in South Lebanon.

Israel says it will take the next step in peace negotiations only after that, when the frontier zone has been quiet for six months.

Lebanon replies that Hizbollah has a perfect right to resist occupation.

Because of the deadlock, Mr. Christopher has not bothered to visit Lebanon on his last three Middle East

swings.

But on Saturday, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa came to Beirut to tell Lebanese officials that this time Mr. Assad and Mr. Christopher discussed the Lebanese track at length.

According to Lebanese sources, Mr. Assad told Mr. Christopher that if there is peace between Syria, Lebanon and Israel, Syria and Lebanon will sign together. He said neither country will sign before the other.

Beirut's bottom line is the land-for-peace principle on which the Middle East peace process was launched at the Madrid conference in December 1991.

And the basis for that, Lebanese officials say, is an Israeli commitment to abide by U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, which demands its unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon.

Once that is done, Lebanon says there will be no problem in disbanding Hizbollah and establishing security on the frontier.

"The day Israel accepts the principle of withdrawal, this resistance will have no more cause and the Lebanese government will have all normal authority to implement security in the whole of South Lebanon," a senior Lebanese official told Reuters recently.

"There is a Lebanese commitment to that."



An Israeli water skier waves an Israeli and a Jordanian flag during a nautical peace happening in the Red Sea Monday. A flotilla of some 20 small crafts covered in Israeli and

Jordanian flags sailed from the Israeli resort of Eilat to the Jordanian territorial waters to celebrate the Israeli-Jordanian summit (AFP photo)

## Jordanians jubilant over summit

By Jamal Halaby  
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Ululation filled the air when television broadcast live images of King Hussein exchanging warm handshakes and back-pats in a White House ceremony with the leader of Israel, Jordan's enemy for nearly half a century.

The fervour appeared a setback to expectations of Muslim fundamentalists and other peace opponents that King Hussein had gone too far and too quickly for his subjects.

"Does the declaration mean that I can visit Israel next month?" asked Amal Baidoun, 26, a kindergarten teacher, as she watched TV at her luxurious apartment in Amman's suburb.

"This should have taken place fifty years ago," said Eid Marji, 45, a Amman bookshop salesman, who also watched King Hussein and

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin end the state of belligerency that has existed between their countries since 1948.

"This will lead to security and prosperity for us," he said, reflecting a widespread belief that a settlement with Israel will activate Jordan's stagnant economy, straining under \$6.6 billion foreign debt accumulated in the 1980s.

Said Zubeidi, 32, a contractor, said: "Our King's courageous decision to meet with Rabin is an effort that he should be thanked for."

"He knows best what is good for his people and his nation and he has our full support," added Mr. Zubeidi.

Mr. Zubeidi's reaction was shared by many who saw King Hussein as a saviour who overcame Jordan's development into a relatively prosperous and cosmopolitan nation from a backward, resource-poor land of nomads.

The Hussein-Rabin meeting appeared to have also drawn emotional reactions from the Kingdom's elderly.

Restaurant owner Nayef Kawash, 78, said it was the best thing he'd ever witnessed.

"We suffered a lot from wars and it is time for the young generation to enjoy the fruits of peace," he said in tears as he sat in his chair taking an order from a customer.

Despite the jubilation, some Jordanians were cautious about the fallout from the White House meeting.

"I do not know what to say," said Osama Shashaa, 50, a trader, after pausing for a few minutes. "Are we going to see real peace or one that carries seeds of failure?"

"Aziz Masari, 45, manager of Safeway's grocery, was 'pragmatic' in his viewpoint.

"What choice do we have?" he said. "The state of no-war, no peace wasn't good."

## ... but also unsure of peace benefits

By Soleiman Al Khalidi  
Reuters

AMMAN — A subdued and resigned Jordanian public watched the Washington summit on television on Monday, anxious for peace but sceptical about whether Israel will withdraw from occupied lands.

"I do not say I am with or against the peace process, I am looking to practical signs of peace on the ground," Fakhr Jundi, 35, said while watching the Israeli-Jordanian summit from his bakery in downtown Amman.

Mr. Jundi and others said they would put behind past enmity only if the Jewish state withdrew from occupied Arab lands and restored territory occupied in the 1967 war.

Despite the handshakes and pledges of peace by King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, most interviewed in Amman's teeming and poor downtown expressed scepticism about Israel's

intentions.

Some were uncompromising.

Assistant pharmacist Iman Atta called the Washington declaration "just a cover for Israeli interests with Arab help." Merchant Ali Jibril said he believed Israel still "deals with the logic of force."

Others were willing to give the new peace a chance after nearly a half century of conflict.

"I have doubts about Israel's intentions, but if they withdraw from some of our lands we will be ready to coexist with them," said 45-year-old office worker Ibrahim Abdul Hadi.

The enthusiasm seen in Washington was replaced in Amman by acceptance that Jordan and other Arab states could not defeat Israel on the battlefield and it was time to make peace.

"We have been fighting since 1948 without achieving anything and if we continue wars we cannot beat Israel," said Majid Hamid, an unemployed labourer watching state television's live coverage of the landmark summit.

"Let us breathe air and enjoy peace like everyone else," Mr. Hamid said in the Kamel coffee shop, glancing at the television as he played cards with his friends. "We ought to have reached this peace 20 years ago."

Many saw the summit as the only option left to an Arab state with little military power and under intense U.S. pressure to end a state of war that has existed since the creation of Israel in 1948.

"The peace on offer was the only choice to bring prosperity but it was not the peace we wanted to restore full rights," said Abdullah Hijazi, owner of a downtown coffee shop.

"This peace will reduce tension, but there will never be an end to the religious division between us and the Jews," he said. They may come as tourists like the rest but we can never make real friends with them."

## Row over wording delaying Iraq-Turkey pipeline deal

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A deal to flush the Iraq-Turkey pipeline is being hampered by a dispute over humanitarian supplies to be bought with the crude pumped out, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday.

Baghdad does not want any reference to "equitable distribution" — in particular to the Kurds — in the resolution to be drafted by the U.N. Security Council, on the grounds that such a mention would infringe its sovereignty, MEES said.

But the United States insists there should be a clear mention of equitable distribution, with specific assurances that the Kurds, who are led by groups hostile to President Saddam Hussein, would receive their fair share.

Turkish diplomats are continuing their efforts at the United Nations to reach a compromise, the Cyprus-based newsletter said.

Turkey shut down the pipeline system on Aug. 7, 1990, in compliance with a U.N. oil and trade embargo imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait.

If the United Nations approves the flushing operation, 27 million barrels of crude would be pumped over six months from the double pipeline system which links the Kirkuk fields in northern Iraq to the Turkish oil terminal of Yumurtalik on the Mediterranean, MEES said.

The crude will be processed and consumed within Turkey, and the money generated will be deposited in a U.N. escrow account, with 30 per cent of the proceeds going to the U.N.-controlled Gulf war compensation fund, and another portion to cover U.N. expenses in Iraq, the weekly added.

The remainder of the funds would be divided equally between Iraq and Turkey, with Ankara providing Baghdad with humanitarian goods equivalent in value to Iraq's share so that no cash would be handed over.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has formed a ministerial commission to stop Iraqi pharmacists cashing in on medicines distributed by the state at cheap prices.

In a cabinet on Sunday, he asked for suggestions on ways to guarantee that medical supplies were handed out at prices determined by the state as patients now find it hard to pay the exorbitant rates the pharmacists ask.

Iraq says it is facing an acute shortage of medical supplies which it blames on the sanctions.

Babel, a newspaper published by President Saddam's eldest son Uday, admitted that drug prices had soared far beyond what ordinary citizens can afford.

Babel did not say what measures the government would take against pharmacists who overcharge but traders and retailers not abiding by government-set prices face up to one year in prison.

The medical black market is growing in Baghdad with different kinds of medicines being sold by pavement vendors.

U.N. and non-governmental humanitarian agencies supply part of Iraq's medical supplies.

In Amman, Greek diplomats said Greece had promised Iraq sophisticated machinery and expertise to rebuild the country's infrastructure, devastated by the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

The diplomats told the Associated Press that the

Greek offer was made to Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz who visited Athens this week.

Mr. Aziz, President Saddam's foreign affairs anchorman, passed through Jordan on his way back home on Monday. He was not available for comment while in Amman.

The Iraqi and Greek embassies here said they had no information on the Greek offer, which apparently came in return for Iraqi pleas to Athens to help lift the sanctions.

One of the Arab diplomats, speaking in exchange for anonymity, said the socialist government in Athens "promised the Iraqis that it could provide them with expertise and help to rebuild their nation after the sanctions are lifted."

"The Greeks also promised that they would provide Iraq with sophisticated construction machinery," the diplomat said without specifying the nature of the machinery or whether their dispatch to Iraq would be in violation of the sanctions.

An Egyptian trade delegation is to visit Iraq in the next few days for the first time since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported.

The delegation, made up of representatives from private and public companies, will discuss the export of priority products to Iraq, the agency said in a report from Baghdad.

The cost of the exports will be charged to Iraqi accounts frozen abroad, it said.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak made repeated appeals for an end to "the Iraqi people's suffering" in the past few months.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Ghazi Zawaideh 736011  
Dr. Khalid Al-Azzam 666873  
Dr. Bassim Qaddumi 648633  
Dr. Youssef Al-Faqih 756988  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Fardous pharmacy 783336  
Al Asma pharmacy 637055  
Nairokh pharmacy 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 640943  
Shmoosani pharmacy 637660  
Najjib pharmacy 847632

#### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence immediate

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)  
09:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:15 Larnaca (RJ)  
10:25 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
10:50 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
11:15 London (RJ)  
11:25 Istanbul (RJ)  
11:30 Paris (RJ)  
11:30 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)  
11:30 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
11:30 Rome (RJ)  
11:30 Athens (RJ)  
11:30 Beirut (RJ)  
11:30 Cairo (RJ)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
10:30 Rome (RJ)  
11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:30 Berlin, London (RJ)  
12:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)  
12:00 Istanbul (RJ)  
12:00 Colombo (RJ)  
12:30 Beirut (RJ)  
12:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)  
13:00 Riyadh (RJ)  
13:10 New Delhi (RJ)  
13:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)  
13:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

### HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

#### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.  
Apples 600/500  
Bananas 600/500  
Bassana (Mokannar) 180/160  
Cabbage 240/180  
Carrot 280/200  
Cauliflower 300/220  
Cucumbers (large) 90/70  
Cucumbers (small) 200/120  
Eggplant 180/100  
Fig 280/160  
Garlic 800/600  
Grapes 400/300  
Lemon 600/500  
Marrow (large) 150/100  
Marrow (small) 320/220  
Mulukhiyah 140/80  
Okra 800/600  
Orange 300/400  
Onion (dry) 240/160  
Sweet Melon 200/150  
Pepper (hot) 280/200  
Pepper (sweet) 260/180  
Potato 420/300  
Peaches 700/600  
Tomato 110/70  
String beans 350/250  
Watermelon 120/70

### JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO  
17:00 ..... Only  
17:30 ..... N.B.A. sport  
18:00 ..... News in French  
18:45 ..... Le Journal De L'Histoire  
19:00 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Coach  
21:30 ..... The World Of The 30's  
21:30 ..... The World Of The 30's  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Poldark

#### PRAYER TIMES

06:12 ..... Fajr  
05:42 ..... (Sunrise) Dula  
12:43 ..... Dhuhur  
16:23 ..... 'Asr  
19:02 ..... Maghrib  
21:12 ..... 'Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swireh, Tel. 810740  
Assamites of God Church, Tel. 637855  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 623543

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.  
Min./Max. temp. 20/31  
Aqaba 23/40  
Deserts 16/33  
Jordan Valley 22/36  
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33 Aqaba 25. Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent. Aqaba 22 per cent.

#### CHURCHES

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St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 623543







## U.S. wants U.N. observers to monitor invasion of Haiti

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States Monday called for U.N. observers to monitor its possible invasion of Haiti and proposed a 6,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force to take over after the invaders leave.

But a draft of the U.S. initiated resolution, obtained by Reuters, gives no warning date for a possible invasion as the United States did to Iraq before the 1991 Gulf war.

Both the lack of a deadline and the call for U.N. monitors is causing Washington's allies to have second thoughts about United Nations personnel being in Haiti at the same time as an invasion force. Diplomats said these provisions may be revised.

A U.S. official said he hoped for adoption of the resolution by Friday but that it could slip into the weekend. The mandate for the abortive U.N. mission in Haiti expires Sunday and the

U.S. resolution is meant to replace it.

The Clinton administration is laying the diplomatic groundwork for armed intervention by seeking United Nations authorisation for an invasion to topple Haiti's military leaders and allow Washington to choose the date.

The military overthrew exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in a September 1991 coup.

The resolution would ask the United Nations to authorise a U.S.-led multinational force to use "all necessary means" to restore the "legitimate authorities in Haiti and establish and maintain a secure and stable environment."

It also would establish "concurrent with the deployment of the multinational force, a small observer group" reporting to Secretary-General Boutros

Ghali for coordination purposes.

The document says that after the U.S.-led force ends its mission, the United Nations should take over with 6,000 soldiers and police. Dr. Ghali previously had suggested 1,200 troops.

The U.N. force should be in place by February 1995, after Haiti holds another round of presidential elections, the draft says. Mr. Aristide, the country's first democratically elected president, took office in early 1991 and served only seven months before the military overthrew him.

The U.S. official said the U.N. peacekeeping group would also include Americans. Washington would like up to 50 per cent American troops while most U.N. peacekeeping operations prohibit any one country from having more than a third of its soldiers.

The proposed resolution would broaden the duties for the U.N. force such as ensuring public order, training and modernising the Haitian Armed Forces and police and conducting new legislative elections called by a newly installed government.

To assure passage, the U.S. undersecretary of state, Peter Tarnoff, is visiting Brazil and Argentina this week. Argentina so far has approved of the resolution but Brazil, the largest country in South America, has reservations about the first U.N.-approval of an invasion in the Western Hemisphere.

China, with veto power on the Council, also has not yet indicated how it would vote. Russia will probably support the venture as a deal for getting U.S. approval of its peacekeepers in Georgia despite Council misgivings about the political motives of Moscow's troops.



Haitians picked up at sea wait to be driven to the customs dock in Port Au Prince as the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Valiant returned 219 Haitians from Guantanamo Bay Naval Station (AFP photo)

## Gambia unveils military-civil government

BANJUL (R) — Gambia's new military ruler, Lieutenant Yahya Jammeh, unveiled a 15-member government Tuesday made up almost equally of soldiers and civilians.

The non-military members were mostly civil servants under President Sir Dawda Jawara, who was toppled in a

weekend coup and has since fled to neighbouring Senegal.

An official statement named Lt. Jammeh president and put four other lieutenants earlier named as commanders in key posts.

It said Sana Sabally was vice president; Edward Singateh, minister of defence; Sadibon Hydara, interior

minister and Yankuba Touray, minister of local government.

A Gambian journalist who knows Lt. Singateh well said he was a graduate of the United States military training school at Fort Benning and described him as "well educated and well-balanced."

## Modernised Labour will appeal to 'the broad majority' — Blair

LONDON (AFP) — Newly-elected British opposition leader Tony Blair gave a stark warning of failure Tuesday if his Labour Party tried to turn the clock back to the socialist dogma of old.

In the wide-ranging interview with the pro-Conservative Daily Telegraph, he said he had a mandate to shed socialist dogma that had kept Labour out of government.

"I am keen to argue on the Labour Party agenda, and not to believe our purpose in coming into government is to switch the clock back 15 years," he said. "We won't succeed if we do."

"I am not going to run the Labour Party for this interest group or that pressure group. It is the broad majority of British people out there who want the country run for them. That is what I will do," he said.

He acknowledged Labour would have to come to terms with many changes made by the Tories since 1979.

"Ballots before strikes and for union elections, restrictions on mass and flying pickets — those things are here to stay," he said.

He also repeated his commitment to Europe, and confirmed Labour would introduce legislation for a Scottish parliament and a Welsh assembly "as a first-year (in government) commitment", and would reform the House of Lords.

The paper considered there were echoes of the radicalism of former Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in Mr. Blair's pledge that the Labour Party would have to reform the welfare state to ensure that its purpose was "to get people off dependency rather than keep them on."

Challenged on difficulties a sceptical electorate might present him over his pro-European views, Mr. Blair said: "I am a committed European and I believe our future lies with Europe."

"I would like to see us being more ready to take on and criticise those aspects of European policy that are plainly contrary to the interests of British and European people, such as the Common Agricultural Policy which imposes huge costs on the consumer."

He added: "We want to develop a policy that keeps us as committed Europeans, working for European co-operation in an intelligent way which realises that the path of the co-operation may have to change because of events."

Mr. Blair came out well ahead of Prime Minister John Major as Britain's preferred choice for premier in a weekend poll by the paper's stablemate the Sunday Telegraph, and the Labour Party also enjoys a comfortable lead over the ruling Tories in opinion polls, although elections are two years away.

## U.S. wants new nuclear test ban treaty guidelines by September

GENEVA (AFP) — The United States wants the basis of a treaty banning all nuclear testing to be drawn up by Sept. 7, U.S. ambassador to the Geneva disarmament conference Stephen Ledogar said Monday.

Ledogar said it was important to compose a text and move on from theories and generalisations.

The conference, whose members have been engaged in talks on and off since the start of the year on concluding a comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT), reopened their discussions Monday, with the current session due to go through to Sept. 7.

The rapid conclusion of a CTBT treaty is the "number one priority in multilateral arms control negotiations" for the U.S. administration of President Bill Clinton, Mr. Ledogar stressed.

"We've received our marching orders," he continued. "The president has said he wants the treaty finished as soon as possible."

Mr. Ledogar said Washington was looking for a "broad working outline of the comprehensive test ban treaty," a rolling text composed of all preliminary texts which are progressively "rolled" into a draft final treaty.

The United States fears there exists a risk of increased global nuclear proliferation and wants to push on with compiling a treaty.

That desire is underpinned by the knowledge Washington will be able to keep on modernising its nuclear arsenal via laboratory simulations, a technique in which the United States leads the field.

With the exception of China, which recently held nuclear tests, the other main nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, Britain and France — have decreed a testing moratorium.

France is in a difficult position on the issue, with President Francois Mitterrand, who has the final say on French defence matters, in favour of extending the moratorium. However, his neo-liberal government wants to see a return to testing.

French military experts have tried hard to move ahead in the field of simulated tests, but believe they will need to have recourse to real testing to ensure they have not made any mistakes.

China, seemingly behind in the simulation stakes, appears not to favour a complete ban on tests, according to diplomats.

Mr. Ledogar said the atmosphere at talks early next year to extend the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) would be "more conducive to a broad agreement to extend indefinitely and unconditionally the NPT if substantial progress has been made by then on a test ban."

The NPT, which came into force in 1970, officially runs for 25 years, and will thus require extension next year.

The treaty has been signed by almost 150 countries, including North Korea, Iraq and Libya. China has signed but never ratified the document, while India, Pakistan and Israel have remained outside the accord's jurisdiction.

The treaty forbids non-nuclear powers to acquire nuclear weapons and forbids nuclear powers from passing them on.

## Chechen tank unit sides with opposition — report

MOSCOW (AFP) — A key army tank unit has withdrawn its support for Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev and offered to help opposition forces oust him if needed, ITAR-TASS news agency reported Tuesday.

Opposition leaders in Chechnya meanwhile asked Russia to recognise them as the new authority in the tiny breakaway republic in the Caucasus and appealed to President Boris Yeltsin to guarantee stability there, the news agency said.



Three Spanish UNPROFOR troops try to fix a Croatian boy's tricycle in Medjugorje near the Spanish battalion's base. The Spaniards' sector includes Mostar, divided between Croats and Bosnian Muslims, where the European Union's administrator was inaugurated Saturday for a two-year mandate to rebuild the ancient city (AFP photo)

## Russia slams U.N. Bosnia proposal

SARAJEVO (R) — Russia poured cold water on Tuesday on a proposal by Secretary General Boutros Ghali that U.N. troops should be pulled out of former Yugoslavia to make way for a force provided by the big powers.

Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said on a visit to Belgrade that only U.N. soldiers should act as peacekeepers and NATO was not a suitable replacement for the 35,000-strong U.N. force.

In Sarajevo, the Bosnian government said Dr. Ghali's proposal would harm negotiations on a peace plan put forward by an international "contact group."

"It's quite surprising because in a way it prejudices the contact group decisions," Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic told reporters.

The United Nations meanwhile reported a heavy exchange of artillery and mortar fire across the Serb-Muslim front line northwest of Maglaj in Bosnia, with 160 rounds recorded as landing in an hour.

The United Nations accused the Serbs of restricting its ability to investigate Serb violations of the U.N.-imposed heavy weapons exclusion zone around the Muslim enclave of Gorazde Monday.

Gen. Grachev arrived in Belgrade accompanied by Russian special envoy Vitaly Churkin amid intense diplomatic efforts to persuade the Bosnian Serbs to reverse their rejection of the latest international peace plan.

The Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, said it understood Gen. Grachev would propose to the Serbs that a Russian peacekeeping contingent be deployed around the northern Bosnian town of Brcko.

Brcko straddles an important Serb supply route whose status is of concern to the Serbs in the event of a division of Bosnia along the lines proposed by the five-power contact group.

The peace plan, which the Serbs have so far rejected, awards 51 per cent of Bosnia to the Muslim-Croat alliance and the rest to the Serbs, who now hold 70 per cent.

The "northern corridor", which runs through a bottleneck around Brcko, links Serbian proper with Serb-held territory in western Bosnia and Croatia.

Gen. Grachev also said he wanted to give Russia's reaction to Dr. Ghali's suggestion that the U.N. force should be pulled out whether a peace settlement is reached or not.

"I came here to convey Russia's stand on Dr. Ghali's statement that UNPROFOR should be replaced by NATO. The U.N. Security Council is now in a state of shock," Gen. Grachev told reporters.

"NATO is not a peacekeeping organisation. Only UNPROFOR can fulfill the mission in Bosnia."

Dr. Ghali suggested Monday in a letter to the Security Council that only major powers such as the United States, not the lightly armed and dangerously exposed U.N. force, could enforce a peace deal.

Dr. Ghali did not mention NATO in his letter but he said the contact group "the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia" should provide forces to back up their peace proposals.

Of the contact group, only Russia is not a NATO member.

Meanwhile two French soldiers, who went over to the Serbs while serving with the UNPROFOR in Bosnia, late Monday returned voluntarily to their unit, U.N. headquarters here said.

The two French marines, who went "absent without leave", had gone to join the Bosnian Serb army.

They were to be detained for their own safety and returned to France by the first possible plane. The military will punish them for going absent without leave.

## Prayer for peace as Sri Lankan town prepares for cliff-hanger polls

TRINCOMALEE, Sri Lanka (AFP) — Hindu devotees trek through security check posts to an eighth-century temple in this battle-scarred port town to offer prayers as they face an election virtually under the gun.

Minority Tamils, who are mostly followers of Hinduism, fear that campaigning for the Aug. 16 general elections may re-open old wounds in this northeastern port town, which has seen bitter inter-communal violence.

Trincomalee, 260 kilometres from the capital Colombo, was better known as a British staging post during World War I and prior to that as a strategic sea port for Dutch and Portuguese colonial rulers.

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas, who are fighting for a separate state called Eelam, want to turn this town with one of the best natural harbours in the world into their capital city. The majority Sinhalese oppose separation.

At every street corner here, heavily armed police examine identity cards and carry out body searches of men, women and children. Vehicles going in and out are searched for weapons and explosives.

The top police official here, Superintendent Ananda Hettiaratchi, says the "checks must continue to maintain the fragile peace and ensure that Tamil Tiger

guerrillas do not infiltrate the town."

"Tigers have not been able to do anything here for the past two years, partly because of our checks and also because people no longer support them," Mr. Hettiaratchi said.

However, he said there were several remote villages where the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were still active and may intimidate Tamils and prevent them from voting. Some 183,000 men and women here are eligible to vote.

He said security will be further tightened ahead of next month's parliamentary polls, at which Trincomalee will elect four MPs out of the 225 seats in the Legislative

Assembly.

Political analysts expect minority parties to play a crucial role in a future government as they predict a close battle between the main opposition People's Alliance (PA) and the ruling United National Party (UNP).

Tamil residents fear that with the campaign heating up, tensions too may surface between the Sinhalese, Tamils and the Muslims, who are in almost equal strength here.

Communal differences widened after Tamil militants butchered hundreds of Sinhalese and Muslim villagers, drawing retaliatory attacks in the mid-1980s and early 1990s.

"With election slogans ab-

out Eelam, it may re-open old wounds," (Tamil) People are nervous," said M.K. Sellarajah, 65, a prominent Tamil resident, who is also the chief custodian of the Trikoneswaram Kovil, or temple.

The historic Hindu shrine, located inside the Portuguese-built Fort Frederick, has been a symbol of Tamil resilience. The Portuguese who arrived here in 1624 destroyed the temple, but it was re-built about 30 years ago.

Part of the rituals are conducted by a priest perched on an unprotected cliff-edge with a drop of 360 feet (110 metres) into the Indian Ocean.

"Even during the period of

worst violence here, I managed to bring priests up to the temple and perform our poojas (rituals)," Sellarajah said. The temple is located at the northeastern-most tip of Fort Frederick, which is now an army base.

Sinhalese, who are mainly Buddhists, venerate Hindu temples, providing a common bond in an otherwise ethnically divided society.

Ruling party candidate Ranjini Senasinghe says the main campaign issues for them are peace and development.

"The Trincomalee Tamils don't want Eelam," said Senasinghe, who is a member of the majority Sinhalese community. "They want only a peaceful society."

## Topless women OK; topless men to be fined

SAINT-RAPHAEL, France (R) — The mayor of this popular French Riviera resort where bare-breasted women are a common sight on the beach has decided to crack down on men walking about topless in the town's streets. Charles Omede told French television the sight of men walking the town's picturesque streets topless, shirtless, in shorts or in bathing suits was tasteless. Offenders would from now on be fined up to 200 francs (\$37), he said.

## 'AIDS-infected' needle used in holdup

BESANCON, France (AFP) — A grocer handed over his takings after a young man threatened him with what he said was an AIDS-infected hypodermic, police said Monday. The grocer discovered the young man rummaging in the back of his shop, but the attacker brandished the needle, demanding the day's takings. The grocer handed over 10,000 francs (\$1,900), police said.

## Peru's tallest man takes petite bride

LIMA (R) — Peru's tallest man married a 23-year-old woman who barely reaches his waist, local television reported Monday. Margarito Machacay, who is 7-feet-4 (2.23 metres) tall, walked down the aisle over the weekend with Marlene Ramos, a petite bride of 4-feet-9 (1.44 metres), the television report said. "I am two months pregnant and the doctors say the child is well developed," a beaming Mr. Ramos told reporters who arrived to cover the event in the small jungle city of Tingo Maria, 360 kilometres north-east of Lima. Mr. Machacay's stature caused problems on the way to the municipal office where the wedding took place since he could not fit into the nuptial car. "It was impossible to make a 2-inch-wide (5 cm) wedding ring," a jeweller in Tingo Maria told Lima's Channel 2 Television.

## Bobbitt denies beating girlfriend

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (R) — John Wayne Bobbitt, the man whose penis was sliced off by his wife last year, pleaded not guilty at a court hearing to a charge of battering his former girlfriend, Mr. Bobbitt, 27, said at his arraignment he was "absolutely 100 per cent not guilty" of battering 21-year-old former topless dancer Kristina Elliott. Those were the words that football legend O.J. Simpson used Friday in pleading not guilty to murdering his ex-wife and a male friend, Mr. Bobbitt told reporters he chose the words because when he was growing up in Buffalo, New York, Simpson, then the Buffalo Bills' running back, was his hero. Justice of the Peace Bill Jansen set a Sept. 28 trial date for Mr. Bobbitt, who is alleged to have beaten Ms. Elliott during an altercation in the apartment they shared on July 12, Mr. Bobbitt is due back in municipal court Wednesday when chief deputy city attorney will ask that bail set after the first alleged beating incident, on May 6, be revoked because of the July incident. He faces up to a year in jail if convicted on both battery charges. Mr. Bobbitt and his ex-wife, Lorena, made headlines last year when she was accused of cutting his penis off and throwing it away. It was found and successfully reattached. Last Jan. 21, a Virginia jury found his former wife innocent of the charge of "malicious wounding" by reason of temporary insanity.

## McCartney slams Gillette over animal tests

BOSTON (R) — British rock star Paul McCartney has sent back his razor, shaving cream and other products to the Gillette company to protest the manufacturer's use of animals in product testing. In a letter to Gillette's chief executive, Alfred Zeien, the former Beatle said he was sending back all Gillette products in his home and demanded a refund, which he said he would donate to the animal rights group People For The Ethical Treatment of Animals, or PETA. "As a friend of animals, I am not only unsatisfied but outraged," McCartney said.







## Jordan Times

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Editor-in-Chief:  
**GEORGE S. HAWATMEH**

Editorial and advertising offices:  
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## A much stronger Jordan

**FOLLOWING THE** proclamation of the end of the state of war between Jordan and Israel, the Kingdom emerges much stronger and more confident than before. In a region that has seen many wars in the past 40 years, not only between the Arabs and Israel but also among Arabs themselves, a Jordan in peace with its most powerful neighbour is certainly stronger than one at war with it.

During the past decade, Jordan saw the edifice of a confident post-1970 Arab order crumble down. The fall started with Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and the driving of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) out of that country. The fall of oil prices came next. Then came Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf war that led to a schism still unhealed in Arab ranks. In the process, Jordan lost Iraq as a formidable trade partner, the Gulf states as a financial aid source, and the U.S. as a long time friend and ally.

And in 1993, Jordan was taken by surprise by the deal made between the PLO and Israel in Oslo.

Jordan found itself in the first days of 1994 left with a few friends and more enemies.

The threats were coming from all directions: The American blockade of Aqaba, Saudi estrangement, lack of Arab solidarity, scarcity of funds, obsolete army equipment and Israeli pressure. And thus Jordan had to move and attempt to quell all the threats.

Monday's Washington Declaration is not an instant panacea. It surely shattered the aspirations of those who hoped Jordan was bound to disintegrate and were positioning themselves to reap the spoils. The Washington Declaration might not help heal the rift in the Arab World, but it certainly sends strong signals to many capitals in the region that Jordan is a viable state, a major player and a reliable partner in the emerging post-Cold War Middle East regional order.

With its most volatile borders recognised and its role in the peace process reasserted, Jordan hopes that its decades-old quest for peace and its moderate and tolerant posture will at last bring peace and prosperity to its people and all the peoples of the region.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE WASHINGTON declaration is not the end of the road but it serves as a first step on an arduous road towards regaining Jordan's legitimate rights, said Al Rai Arab daily Tuesday. Commenting on the summit meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the U.S. president, the paper said that it was an occasion to declare the end of belligerency and end the no-war-no-peace situation that lasted for ages. The Washington declaration marks a new era and a new beginning for active work on the road to peace and a commitment on both sides to work hard to achieve the aspirations of the people in the Middle East region, the paper added. While admitting that times have changed and that new means other than conflict are being sought to regain national rights, the paper said one cannot be carried away by unjustified optimism and at the same time should not resign himself to pessimism. One should wait for the final outcome, said the paper. We welcome peace that will restore our rights, end aggression and establish security and stability in the region and open the door for future prosperity and progress, added the paper. But, the paper said, the road to attain the national aspirations is still long and King Hussein's leadership and wise policies coupled with a strong national unity are essential ingredients to help the Kingdom achieve its objectives.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour addressed the one hour sit-in staged by heads and supporters of opposition parties near the Grand Hussein Mosque downtown Amman and said that these parties' condemnation of the Washington summit meeting was fruitless and would soon be forgotten. Mohammad Subeishi said that the parties have failed to present an alternative to a meeting with the Israelis to regain the lost territory and the other rights. While admitting that the opposition groups have resorted to very democratic means to express their views and sought to present a symbolic gesture in opposition to the Washington meeting, rather than organising a huge rally that would further inflame sentiments, the writer said that it was quite possible and necessary for the heads of these parties to issue a statement with an alternative plan to convince the public of their views. The writer said that the one hour sit-in was deemed necessary by the opposition parties whose activities, charged the writer, are being totally ignored by the official information services.

## Washington Watch

# American- Jewish community and Christian fundamentalism

By Dr. James Zogby

THE INCREASINGLY powerful role played by the Christian fundamentalist movement in the Republican Party poses a serious problem for the organised Jewish community in the U.S. During the past month this issue has stirred up a vigorous public debate within the organised Jewish community. While the debate was first played out in the Jewish press, it has recently made its way into the opinion pages of mainstream U.S. press.

For at least the past two decades, American-Jews have been divided over their view of Christian fundamentalism. Liberal Jews were repulsed by the "fanaticism of the true believers." They were concerned not only about the intolerance of the movement in its rejection of the liberal social agenda espoused by a majority of the Jewish community, but also by the claim of many fundamentalist Christians that only believers in Jesus Christ would be saved by God.

So, as liberal Jews led the fight for maintaining the separation between Church and State (including the effort to keep prayer out of public schools and removing Christian symbols from publicly owned property), they ran up against those Christian groups which would argue that religion is an important part of public life.

On the other side were those pro-Israel strategists who, as early as the 1970s, saw right wing Christians as an ally in their struggle against the Arabs. Many Christian fundamentalists were virulently anti-Communist, and saw Arabs as surrogates of the Soviet Union in the Middle East.

But belief in the state of Israel was also for many fundamentalists a matter of theology. Made increasingly popular by the Reverend Pat Robertson in the 1980s, this belief taught that the Old Testament prophecies were destined to be replayed in the modern world, leading to the Day of Judgement and the Final Battle of Armageddon as proclaimed in the New Testament.

According to this school of thought, the ingathering of the Jews into Israel in 1948 was part of God's plan to bring on the Final Battle, in which the forces of good (which fundamentalist Christians see as the U.S. and its allies) would confront the forces of evil (correspondingly seen as the Soviet Union and its allies — Arabs and Muslims). This battle would lead to the destruction of the Earth, which for this theology is a necessity before Jesus can return to save "the select, the believers."

This Christian fundamentalist view maintained that, although all Jews must ultimately be converted to Christianity in order to fulfill the prophecies, Israel must be supported at all costs.

It was this last belief which led several right-wing Jewish strategists to cultivate fundamentalist Christian support to shore up their political power in the U.S. They arranged trips for fundamentalist leaders to visit Israel and meetings for them with Israeli government officials. Jewish groups also helped arrange for these fundamentalist Christian groups to open offices in Israel and even a Christian television station in South Lebanon. In return, the Christian fundamentalists supported the right-wing Jewish pro-Israel agenda in the U.S.

Many of these right wing Jewish strategists formed the

backbone of the neoconservative movement that provided quite a number of foreign policy experts to the Reagan administration in the 1980s. It was they who formed the unholy alliance of right-wing Jews and Christian fundamentalists supporters of Israel within the Republican Party.

The intensity and success of this relationship can be best understood by the example of 1988, when Arab-Americans took pro-Arab and balanced Middle East peace process resolutions to Democratic Party state conventions across the U.S. A coalition was formed of Arab-Americans, progressive Jews, African-Americans and peace activists. In every state where this coalition entered Democratic conventions, they won. And, for the first time, this same coalition succeeded in getting the issue of Palestinian statehood debated at the Democratic National Convention.

On the other hand, the power of the neo-conservative and Christian fundamentalists alliance was so strong on the Republican side that, in 1988, Arab-Americans were unable to win or even secure a debate on any Middle East platform language in any state. Even in 1992, when Arab-Americans sought to change the very strong pro-Israel language of the Republican Party by adding language supportive of the Madrid process started by the Republican administration of President Bush and Secretary of State Baker, every attempt was defeated by this right wing alliance.

So, today, as liberal Democrats, including many Jewish Democrats have begun a campaign to warn about the strong influence of the Christian right in the Republican Party, it is not surprising that neo-conservative Jews have rushed to the defence of their right-wing Christian Republican allies. This has set off a firestorm of debate within the Jewish community.

Compounding this debate is a recently published report by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), "The Religious Right: Assault on Tolerance and Pluralism in America," a study of the growing influence of the Christian fundamentalist movement. While the ADL steadfastly maintains that their report is non-partisan and should not be confused with the Democratic campaign against the Christian right, the timing of its release has fanned the flames of debate in the Jewish community.

The sides in this debate currently line up something like this: On the one side are liberal Jewish organisations such as the American-Jewish Committee and the American-Jewish Congress and moderate Jewish Republicans like Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA). On the other side are Likud-supporting groups such as Americans for a Safe Israel (ASI) and former Reagan and Bush administration officials like former Reagan Assistant Secretary of State Elliot Abrams and Vice President Quayle's former Chief of Staff William Kristol.

The role of the ADL in the midst of this dispute is, at best, confusing. A once-liberal civil rights organisation, the ADL has moved to the right, finding "anti-Semitism" in every liberal and left-wing group in the U.S. — African-Americans, the liberal press, the mainstream Protestant National Council of Churches, peace organisations and all

Arab-American groups. It is the ADL which is responsible for creating the equation of anti-Israel and anti-Semitism).

The liberal side warns that the Christian fundamentalists are "anti-pluralist and intolerant," and that their growing influence threatens the liberal social agenda on issues like separation of church and state, abortion rights and the rights of minorities including women and homosexuals. "The of minorities including women and homosexuals," claims Steve Gutow, executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council. "When pluralism is challenged, most of us in the Jewish community are going to stand up and say 'no'." Gutow recognises the value of their support for Israel. Mr. Gutow says that "most Jews are understandably mistrustful of the radical right."

The conservative Jewish response is straight-forward. The spokesperson of ASI said "the greatest friends of the state of Israel has in America are the Christian conservatives" and he goes on to note that "conservative Christians and Orthodox Jews share beliefs on many social and moral issues."

Elliot Abrams goes further, accusing many in his community of holding a "deep-seated fear of Christian Evangelical groups" that he says is a form of bigotry. William Kristol adds "it is just so short-sighted and self-destructive for a Jewish organisation like the ADL to unjustly and gratuitously alienate Christian conservatives."

While the debate rages on in the Jewish community over the issue itself, and over the ADL report, the Republican Party leadership has apparently decided not to distance itself from the Christian right — a powerful bloc of votes which the Republicans feel are central to their electoral ambitions of 1994 and 1996. At the same time, the party leaders and 1996 presidential hopefuls are attempting to reach out to the broader Jewish community in an effort not to lose their votes, as they seek to win upcoming elections.

The national chairman of the Republican Party Haley Barbour, characterised the attack on Christian fundamentalists as "without doubt an organised political strategy. A cynical organised campaign of Christian bashing." He then went on to appeal to Jewish voters saying that he believed that Republicans "deserve more than (the) 15 per cent" of the Jewish vote that George Bush won in 1992 (recalling that, as a result of neo-conservative support, Ronald Reagan won 35 per cent of the Jewish vote in 1988).

Mr. Barbour went on to pledge strong Republican support for Israel, saying, "I don't think there can be any question that Jerusalem should remain a united city under Israeli sovereignty." The Republican Party chairman also noted that "if you look at most Republicans, you'll see overwhelming support for foreign aid to Israel."

The Democrats have succeeded in creating a national debate over the role that the Christian right wing plays in the Republican Party. But while the expected debate between Democrats and Republicans may now be subsiding, the debate within the Jewish community seems to be far from over. The bottom line in this debate is simple: is support for right wing Israel policy more important to the Jewish community than the social agenda of pluralism, tolerance and liberalism they have long espoused?

## Jordan on throes of transformation

(Continued from page 1)

the Washington Declaration took place Monday, that the English term for "belligerency" existed in neither Arab nor Hebrew, indicating that a difference therefore hardly existed to warrant trouble over the issue. And it was that particular sentence, indeed, that saw him receiving two standing ovations at the White House and Capitol Hill, signalling the inevitability of all-around agreement by the Jordanians, Americans and Israelis.

Warren Christopher, the usually conservative and right-tipped U.S. Secretary of State, sounded so elated and upbeat about the event that he told a television interviewer that Jordan's economy would witness a transformation process in the next couple of years. President Clinton had earlier called the King a "hero," who deserved total support from the American people.

On the political level, Jordan has achieved not only a breakthrough in asserting its indispensable role in the emerging regional order, whether in

terms of Amman's relationship with Saudi Arabia (Prince Bandar, the Saudi ambassador, absent himself from Washington over the past few days) or in terms of renewing the Kingdom's traditionally close ties with the U.S.

Jordan did also make gains through the difficult economic period that started in the early eighties, deepened in the second half of that decade and continued during the Gulf crisis and war.

Even in the Washington Declaration with Israel, the Jordanians made sure that the agreements reached would work to this country's benefit, preserving the holy Islamic place in Jerusalem being the best example there. Besides, there are elements in the agreements that would enable Jordan to maintain and strengthen its geopolitical interests in the region as a whole.

Senior Jordanian officials insist that no undue concessions were made to the Israelis through signing the Washington Declaration. Israel was basically after ending its isolation in the

region, and Jordan did not do any more than the Palestinians did on Sept. 13 last year or what the Syrians would do (upon reaching an agreement on the Golan Heights) towards that goal. Besides, a senior official asks, what is so new about ending the state of war (with the Jewish state)?

"Israel has finally agreed to accept Jordan's sovereignty and territorial integrity, having had posed a big threat to them for so long before. Who is winning there then? Who had the greater military capability to threaten the other before, if I may ask."

The King, in his joint conference with President Clinton and Mr. Rabin after addressing Congress on Tuesday, said Jordan was alerted to the possibility of terrorist attacks like those waged in London yesterday and in Argentina last week.

"But in the final analysis," said a senior Jordanian official, "the threat of violence cannot stop a country, especially like ours, from seizing the right moment and moving forward towards a better and more secure future."

## Sharaa: No 'real' peace without Syria

(Continued from page 1)

But it criticised Jordan and claimed there was much popular and political opposition in the Kingdom to the agreement.

An Iraqi newspaper said the U.S. is committing a mistake by "forcing" Arab countries to make peace with Israel.

"America is committing the craziest mistake ... imposing borders and treaties," the newspaper Babel said in a front-page editorial on the Jordan-Israel accord.

Babel said that any deal with the "wicked Zionist entity" would eventually run contrary to the course of history.

"It is history not geography or politics which decides the path of events," it said.

Hardline Palestinian groups said the Jordan-Israel summit will not end war in the Middle East.

Monday was "another black day to add to all the others in the history of Jordan," the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said.

It said the summit was "another failure for the Arabs."

"Nobody will be able to put an end to the state of

hostilities so long as (Arab) rights are trampled on by the enemy," it said, adding that it would "continue the fight whatever the cost to recover all Arab rights."

In Tehran, Iran state radio said the peace declaration would not succeed in ending conflict in the Middle East. It warned peace accords with Israel could "not alone save the region from war and crisis" and that such agreements "would lead to new tension between people and compromising Arab leaders."

Libya joined in the attacks on the Jordanian-Israeli deal, saying it was a blow for the Palestinians.

"The signing of the accord between Israel and Jordan is yet another step on the road to liquidating the Palestinian cause," said the country's ministry of Arab unity.

"This accord comes as Israel is continuing its aggression against the Arabs and its bombardment of South Lebanon. It contradicts the U.N. Charter, which does not allow the recognition of the occupation of territory by force."

Newspapers in Tripoli, which rejects the Arab-Israeli peace process, also condemned the deal.

## Jordan says Jerusalem role unpoliticised

(Continued from page 1)

leaders for support on the Palestinian claim to Jerusalem.

Mr. Arafat contacted Arab leaders in a bid to rally support behind his objection to Israel's acknowledgement of Jordanian rights over Muslim sites in Jerusalem.

He telephoned King Hassan of Morocco, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia's defence minister, a Palestinian official told AFP.

Mr. Arafat initially welcomed the Israeli-Jordanian declaration ending 46 years of war.

But the Palestinian authority's news agency WAFA later put out a statement in Gaza denouncing the declaration on Jordanian rights in the holy city.

"Any attempt to exclude the Palestinian leadership and Yasser Arafat in particular from the negotiations on Jerusalem can only harm the peace process," said Sufian Abu Zeida, a Gaza City official of Mr. Arafat's Fateh group.

Mr. Rabin on Tuesday defended the recognition state-

## Deputies reaffirm support

(Continued from page 1)

ment. We should not ask Jordan to do what is beyond its powers and capacities," he said. He described the King's initiative as wise and courageous.

Deputy Nader Dheirat said Jordan's decision to hold talks with Israel was not a Jordanian decision only, but was backed by Arab consensus. Jordan's peace drive is meant to restore Jordanian water and territorial rights and to demarcate the Jordanian boundaries.

Member of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Saud Al Adwan blessed the King's step describing it as "daring and courageous" and wished King Hussein every success in his efforts and continuous endeavours to achieve what he aspired for to serve his own people and the Arab Nation.

Al Ahd Party voiced total support for King Hussein's efforts to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and to fulfill Jordan's national aspirations and goals.

In a statement issued Monday Al Ahd said Jordan had never been absent from the scene of events in the region,

but has always been an active participant in the decision-making process.

Eight leftist and Islamic parties in addition to the Jordanian Arab Popular Committee for Confronting Concessions and Normalisation of Relations with Israel expressed dissatisfaction with the agreements reached between Jordan and Israel saying that this will have negative consequences on Jordan's security and stability.

In a statement issued Tuesday, they said the agreements will have "negative consequences on our security and stability in Jordan and that of the entire Arab and Muslim worlds."

The statement said the government's decisions were not democratic "since they were taken without referring to the Jordanian people nor to their representatives in Parliament nor to the political parties."

The statement said the Washington Declaration ends the state of war between Jordan and Israel at a time when Israel is still "occupying our land and stealing our water."

"Moreover, the declaration gave Israel new concessions, including security coordination, joint economic projects and a share of Jordanian waters, including the Yarmouk River water. It also ignored the refugee problems," the statement said.

It added that Jordan had accepted Israeli claims to religious sovereignty of the holy places, abandoned national and Islamic sovereignty over these places, and ignored Palestinian sovereignty.

"Jordan's official acceptance of all this is tantamount to a recognition of the total Israeli sovereignty on it."

The statement also said that Jordan's "acceptance to becoming a party to the American-Zionist axis without any consideration for inter-Arab relations and regardless of the concessions on the relationship between the government and people of Jordan and the impact on Jordan's relations with the neighbouring Arab countries will have negative consequences on Jordan's security and stability and that of the Arab and Islamic nations."

It was signed by the Jordan Arab Baath Socialist Party, the National Action Front Party, the Jordan Democratic People's Party, the Jordan Communist Party, the Islamic Action Front Party, the Jordan Democratic Socialist Party, the Jordan Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Jordan Arab Democratic Party and the Jordanian Arab Popular Committee for Confronting Concessions and Normalisation of Relations with Israel.

The Islamic Action Front's Zaqra chapter will stage a sit-in Wednesday at the party's headquarters along Zaqra-Amman highway.

At the popular level a number of mayors, university professors, government officials, refugee notables, academics, and heads of unions voiced their support for the King's initiative and said the Washington Declaration will contribute to achieving the long-sought just, comprehensive and lasting peace that Jordan has been advocating, in line with international legitimacy.

## Hamas offers to trade Israeli's body for leaders

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) offered Tuesday to exchange the corpse of an Israeli soldier kidnapped in 1989 for three jailed Muslim fundamentalist leaders.

The fundamentalists issued a statement giving Israel until Friday evening to respond to the first such offer by Hamas.

Soldier Ilan Saadon was abducted as he hitch-hiked on May 3, 1989, murdered and his corpse buried somewhere on the strip.

Hamas claimed responsibility but said those who knew where he was buried had gone into exile.

"We declare our readiness to give back the body of Israeli soldiers Ilan Saadon who was kidnapped and killed by one of our armed units in 1989 in return for the release of Hamas leaders, in-

cluding Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, Abdul Karim in Obaid and Mustafa Dirani," the statement said.

It also called for the release of "some detainees from other Palestinian factions."

Sheikh Yassin, who founded Hamas in December 1987, was arrested in a major 1989 crackdown shortly after Saadon and another Israeli soldier were killed. He was jailed for life in October 1991 for murder.

Senior Shiite cleric Obeid was seized from his South Lebanon home by Israeli commandos in July 1989.

Dirani, a Lebanese fundamentalist chief.







# ASEAN wins European assurances on protectionism

units.

Construction and trade have remained the most profitable sectors in GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE — as other investment opportunities are relatively limited.

"GCC central banks should shoulder their responsibilities by persuading national banks to pump more funds into such productive sectors as industry and agriculture," Sheikh Numan wrote in the chambers magazine, Trade.

"Their concentration on certain sectors like trade and real estate have pushed banks and those sectors to a deadlock. Such sectors have become saturated and the banks are still striving to regain their loans and interests," he concluded.

The United States is interested in international issues such as the prevention of child labour rather than wages of workers in individual countries, she said.

The ASEAN countries have also criticised regulations requiring labelling of their exports to developed countries to show exports comply with environmental laws.

The differences threaten to yet again complicate negotiations for a second generation economic agreement between the two groupings deadlocked because of European unhappiness over alleged abuses of human rights in East-Timor which Indonesia annexed in 1976.

Mr. Van den Broek said that the EU wanted the WTO, which replaces the

that the current wave of industrial disputes sweeping South Africa would harm the economy which is just emerging from the longest recession on record and undermine investor confidence.

Mr. Mandela, president since May, has stressed the RDP will be the cornerstone of the government's strategy, but has insisted it will also pursue prudent and disciplined economic policies.

SACOB said in its proposal the private sector accepted that it had a major task to fulfill in ensuring the objectives of the plan come to fruition.

But while the RDP envisaged a role for business, this had not been clearly spelt out and there are some who there fore might interpret the plan as a sign the new administration would be as authorita-

## Jordan, Israel to pursue free trade agreement

For every one percentage point increase in the yen's value, it said Japanese investment in manufacturing in Asia was estimated to rise 1.6 per cent.

The Japanese currency has soared more than 10 per cent so far this year, with the dollar falling to a new all-time low of less than 97 yen earlier this month, down from almost 112 yen at the end of last year.

"Direct investment in Asian countries is intended to utilise the cost advantage by specialising in labour-intensive production processes. On the other hand, direct investment in North America and Europe is largely (for the establishment of) production bases for local sales, which falls under the influence of

**TEL AVIV (R)** — Israel and Jordan will sign a free trade agreement in another step toward normalised relations, the head of the international division of Israel's finance ministry said Tuesday.

"The concept of a free-trade agreement was raised by the Jordanians and accepted by us," said division head Ehud Kaufman, a delegate to talks last week in Jordan after Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's historic public visit to the Kingdom.

"It by definition means that the Arab boycott will be abolished — or at least Jordan's adherence to it will be," Mr. Kaufman said.

growing concern among ASEAN states — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — over Western demands that developing countries improve workers' wages and social benefits as preconditions for more trade.

The United States and France are among the countries pushing for the inclusion of "social clauses" in trade agreements. Such clauses ASEAN countries say are aimed at reducing the competitive edge they enjoy from having large pools of low-wage workers.

On Monday the U.S. under-secretary of state for economic and agricultural affairs, Joan Spero, denied that Washington was trying to introduce protectionist measures through such

farmers and trade next year, to look into the link between trade and environmental protection, national regulations governing trade and social conditions to ensure that "free trade was also fair trade."

"But we are determined that in doing so this should not be used as an excuse for introducing some form of disguised protectionism," he said.

Mr. Van den Broek later told reporters that the EU was not unhappy with low salaries paid workers in developing countries.

"But there should be minimum accepted universal standards," he said, adding that the EU was opposed to all forms of child labour and prison labour and abuse of the environment.

The agency noted that the yen's recent surge was having a bigger impact on the Japanese economy than the appreciation which occurred in the late 1980s.

The surge which began in 1985 represented a return to the "equilibrium yen-dollar rate", based on the purchasing power of goods in Japan and the United States from which exchange rates had previously deviated.

"On the other hand, the rapid appreciation in the yen's value after 1993 cannot be explained by movements in the equilibrium yen-dollar rate.

THE economic mission of the Piedmontese companies (north Italy) will have a part in the increasing trade exchanges between Italy and Jordan. In particular, at this important moment of peace-making, The Italian managers are very interested in becoming integrated in the plans of interchange and investment in Jordan and Palestine. Between the companies which have a part in the mission there were also the Marco Polo Environmental Group with proposals for the environment with the aim to recycle liquids and solid waste into organic fertiliser and electric energy. These new technologies coming from Marco Polo will allow a better valorification of waste daily produced by the industrial system. This will ensure a positive use of waste. According to the president of the group, Mr. Antonio Bertolotto, the industrial operators of Jordan and Palestine can make use of the real valorification methods of wastes.

## HOROSCOPE

**FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JULY 27, 1994**

*By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation*

**TIRANA (R)** — Albania aims to privatise its economy within the next three years and by 1997 the private sector should account for over two-thirds of gross domestic product, a senior cabinet minister has said.

"The government has adopted guidelines to privatise the greatest part of the Albanian economy by 1996," Bashkim Koplika, deputy premier in charge of privatisation, said in an article in the semi-official daily Rilindja Demokratike.

"In 1997 at least 70 per cent of the GDP is to be produced by the private sector," he said.

Albania has begun to return land to its former owners or their heirs and under the guidelines, people who own

land on which an enterprise stands will get a chance to buy it, he said. Otherwise the enterprise will be sold by auction. Local authorities will set the price in line with market value.

Foreigners will also be allowed to bid to rent the land for a period up to 99 years.

Rent will be paid to the state, not to the original landowner, Mr. Kopliuk said, and the state will take over the debts or profits of an enterprise to be privatised before the sale.

He said that 95 per cent of all small and medium-sized enterprises would be privatised by the end of next year.

The deputy premier also said most services will be privatised by 1996.

**FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JULY 27, 1994**  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** The Moon in Aries trines the Sun at midday making it possible to easily align one's thinking and feelings. We are sure for harmony with family and community members. Harmony is everywhere now.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Observe all the information you can that's connected with new projects you have in mind. Then you will know how to proceed in a timely manner.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You may want to make some changes now in dealings you have with others, so discuss them sensibly with them and get their suggestions.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Listen to the views of associates for future benefits and cooperate more with them. Travel with utmost care and you will be safe.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You can easily get rid of a pesky problem if you start giving something about it instead of procrastinating and waiting until later.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Avoid one who is detrimental to your best interests. Plan how to make your talents work more efficiently for you today.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Try to understand those at home better and have more

harmony there. Engage in outside activities and become more affluent with those around you.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Improve relations with allies by having serious talks with them. Plan your day better and you have more free time to devote to other activities.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Delve into important tasks ahead of you instead of wasting time on less important matters. Be more helpful to others around you today.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Be sure that business affairs are running smoothly before seeking recreation. Be more optimistic towards new projects you are involved in.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Go after the personal goals which most appeal to you and gain them easily. Handle business affairs wisely and you will be successful.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Listening to what good friends have to say can bring you more success now. Plan how to gain your finest aims and desires.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You can have big advancement through the unexpected today so be alert at all times for advantages. Strive for increased happiness with loved ones.

**ACROSS**

1 Copied \_\_\_\_\_

5 Magnet \_\_\_\_\_

1 Down  
2 Across  
3 Down  
4 Across  
5 Down  
6 Across  
7 Down  
8 Across  
9 Down  
10 Across  
11 Down  
12 Across  
13 Down  
14 Across  
15 Down

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"I bet I'll age quickly.  
 Wrinkles will be eager to live  
 with me 'cause I'm such a fun guy."

**JUMBLE**

Unscramble these four Jumbles. one letter in each square, to form four ordinary words.

COPAH      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
\_ O \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
© 1978 Tribune Media Services, Inc.  
by Wally Pfisterman

JEECT      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

HAVEEB      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
\_ O \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

HIRTTY      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
\_ O \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

WHAT THEY GAVE  
HER AT THE  
HEN PARTY.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: A " \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ - \_ \_ \_ \_ "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumbles: LEECH IMBUE FALTER PURIFY  
Answer: Another name for a cattle rustler —

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Panel 1: A man at a bar asks, "I FEEL IT'S MY DUTY TO OFFER HIM SOME SORT OF ADVICE. AND, NOW THAT HE'S DUE TO LEAVE SCHOOL—BUT WHAT?"

Panel 2: The bartender replies, "ANY IDEAS?"

Panel 3: The man insists, "THE ONLY ADVICE I COULD OFFER A YOUNG UN GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD TODAY—DON'T LISTEN TO ANYBODY!"

Panel 4: The man leaves, satisfied, saying, "THAT'LL DO FINE—HE DOESN'T LISTEN ANYWAY."

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## GOODWILL GAMES

## Joyner-Kersey wins heptathlon title; Mitchel wins 100m, becomes a star

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Jackie Joyner-Kersey struggled to her third straight Goodwill Games heptathlon title Tuesday, while Mike Powell and Noureddine Morceli won their events.

Joyner-Kersey, the world record-holder, overcame a bad case of asthma to win the heptathlon with 6,606 points — her lowest total since 1984. She had trouble breathing as she completed the final event, the 800 metres, as soon as she crossed the finish line, she doubled over and tried to catch her breath. Her coach and husband, Bob Kersey, rushed over and pounded her on the back to help her breathe.

"When the weather got cooler, it kicked up some pollen and dust," Joyner-Kersey said later. "In the home stretch, I was feeling so hot I wanted to pull my top down. I couldn't breathe. I'm glad it's over."

Joyner-Kersey had built a 109-point lead after Monday's first four events. After Tuesday's long jump, javelin and 800 metres, she finished 114 points ahead of runner-up Larisa Turchinskaya of Russia. Ghada Shouaa of Syria was third.

Joyner-Kersey, the American record record-holder in the women's long jump and the second-longest performer in history, withdrew from Thursday's long jump competition. Her husband said she would be too physically spent after the heptathlon to compete in the long jump.

Powell, the world record-holder, won the long jump on his sixth and final attempt with a leap of 8.45 metres (27 feet, 8 3/4). He fouled three times and appeared to be suffering from a hamstring injury, but came through when he needed to. Follow American Erick Walder was second in 8.39 (27 6/4).

Carl Lewis did not compete in the long jump, having pulled out after running the 100-metres Monday.

World record-holder Morceli of Algeria pulled away on the last lap to win the mile in 3:48.67. The fastest time of the year. After crossing the finish line, he dropped to his knees on the track, spread out his arms and made the victory sign with both hands.

In beach volleyball action Tuesday, Norway's Jan Kvalheim and Bjørn Naesside won the men's gold medal by beating the U.S. team of Jeff Williams and

Carlos Briceño 12-8, 12-6.

The women's gold was won by the U.S. team of Carolyn Kirby and Liz Masakayan of San Diego, who downed Brazil's Monica Rodrigues and Auriana Samuel 12-9, 12-1.

"This has been our no. 1 goal all year," said Masakayan, who along with Kirby won the five world series title earlier this year, "this is the first major event we've had in the sport and is similar to what we are going to see in the future at the Olympic Games."

Beach volleyball will make its debut at the 1996 Games in Atlanta. "Winning the gold in Atlanta is our ultimate goal," Kirby said. In another U.S.-Brazil matchup, Americans Lori Forsythe and Barbara Fontana beat Maria Salgado and Roseli Timm of Brazil 15-8 for the bronze medal.

The star of Monday's track competition was Dennis Mitchell, the "Green Machine," who won the men's 100-metres. Now he wants to cash in.

"I feel like a million dollars," Dennis Mitchell said after beating a marquee field Monday night that included Leroy Burrell and Carl Lewis. "I wish I had a million

dollars." Mitchell might not collect that right away, but he's certainly in a strong position to demand big money for appearing at lucrative brand prize meets in Europe this summer.

"Zurich and Cologne will be bigger races than this," he said. "There is a lot of money walking around in the 100 metres this year, and I want to get a big piece of it." Mitchell's coach, John Smith, said he will set to it that the 28-year-old sprinter is well rewarded by big meet promoters.

"When an athlete is running well, they want him," Smith said. "Dennis is running extremely well. He's a streak runner, and he's catching fire now."

Originally, Mitchell wasn't even invited by Goodwill Games organizers. He was asked to compete only after Britain's Linford Christie, the Olympic and world champion, withdrew because of a hamstring injury.

"They signed everybody but him," Smith said of Mitchell. "He was angry. It was a disgrace. They couldn't run the race without him."



## Spurs to renew chase for Hagi

LONDON (AP) — Troubled English soccer club Tottenham is reported to be certain to renew its bid for Romanian World Cup star Cheche Hagi after the collapse of his negotiations with Barcelona.

Hagi, who is currently tied to Italian club Brescia, was expected to move to Tottenham for £2 million (\$3 million), but the deal has fallen through.

"There is still a very good deal from Tottenham on offer," his business manager said in London's Evening Standard newspaper.

Tottenham is desperate to boost its playing quality after being severely punished and handicapped by the Football Association when it was found guilty in May of making

irregular payments to players several years ago.

The club was banned from this season's F.A. Cup, fined £600,000 (\$900,000) and had 12 points deducted from its total at the start of this season, which was later reduced to six.

Hagi, 29, was one of the genuine greats at the World Cup and was a big reason behind Romania's charge to the quarterfinals, where it lost to Sweden in a penalty shootout.

The midfielder will be a great boost for Spurs manager Ossie Ardiles who failed in a £2 million (\$3 million) bid for Brazilian defender Marcio Santos last week.

## AIBA chief Choudhry smiles at last

ST. PETERSBURG (R) — For the first time in several years International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) President Anwar Choudhry can allow himself the luxury of a relaxed smile.

After a series of crises which at one stage looked like pushing the sport off the Olympic timetable, Amateur Boxing looks safe for the time being.

It is a far cry from the dark days of October 1988 when International Olympic Committee (IOC) head Juan Antonio Samaranch announced that boxing's future as an Olympic sport was under review.

He was speaking in the wake of the boxing tournament at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, marred by several highly controversial judging decisions.

Choudhry introduced a series of sweeping changes designed to improve safety

and judging standards.

He thought he had saved the day until the leak of an IOC programming committee document last December which urged boxing be dropped at the 1996 Olympics.

"I met Samaranch immediately and he assured me the report did not have the support of the IOC. He very categorically stated boxing should remain on the Olympic Games programme," Choudhry told journalists at the Goodwill Games boxing tournament.

The AIBA chief showed his new confidence about the sport when he revealed he had asked Russia to organise a permanent annual competition gathering the best eight amateur boxers in all 12 weight categories.

But although boxing seems to be safe for the time being, Choudhry admits things could still be better.

One improvement to the

sport still provoking some controversy is the computer judging system which Choudhry devised in a bid to defuse criticism that biased and incompetent referees were ruining the sport.

The system registers a punch only if three of the five judges press a button within one second of each other. But boxers complain that judges regularly fail to focus on head shots, which are noticed more easily.

Choudhry, a Pakistani who judged at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, is unmoved, saying there had been just one judging protest at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics compared to 32 at Seoul in 1988.

"The system has stood the test of time. The administrators fully believe in the system," he said. "The IOC has congratulated us about all we have done to overcome very strong doubts about the judg-

ing." But pressed on the vocal complaints about the new judging system, he concedes: "We are not worried about it but there is room for improvement."

For him the computer system underlines the changing face of the sport. "Boxers who are small do not have much chance. Today you need good height, a long reach and good footwork," he said.

Choudhry also had to deal with ever increasing criticism from doctors over the medical dangers of boxing.

AIBA paid \$1.5 million for a five-year study of 500 boxers which coincides with a similar study done of the IOC.

"The IOC study categorically stated boxing should remain on the Olympic programme and remained a safe sport for the youth," he said.

## Pakistan facing world soccer ban

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — World football governing body FIFA is being urged to suspend Pakistan after rival footballing factions sent national teams to an Asian youth qualifying tournament.

"We are not amused by this at all," said Peter Velappan, general secretary of the Asian Football Confederation, who has recommended suspension to FIFA.

"Pakistan has a formidable history of squabbling and this is not the first time that we have had to intervene," Pakistan national federation President Mian Mohammad Azhar and his rival General Secretary Hafiz Salman Butt picked their own teams for the Asian under-19 championship qualifying tournament in the United Arab Emirates.

Velappan said the Pakistan

## France's Delaitre upsets Rafter in Toronto tournament

TORONTO (AP) — Australian Patrick Rafter, ranked 22nd in the world, lost to little-known Olivier Delaitre of France 5-2, 6-3, 6-3 Monday, the first upset at the \$1.7 million U.S. Player's Ltd. international tennis tournament.

In other matches, the No. 13 seed, Aaron Krickstein, defeated fellow American Jeff Tarango 6-2, 6-2; Maliva Washington of the U.S. the 14th seed, ousted Bahamian Mark Knowles 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 and 16th-seeded German Karsten Bransen eliminated Bobby Kokavec, 18, of Canada, 6-0, 6-4 in 57 minutes.

"I tried my best and did everything I could," said Kokavec, the 1993 Canadian under-18 champion who suffered a stress fracture in his left leg 2½ months ago. "These guys make you plan and they fight for every point. I just hope to improve from this."

In other action Monday, Britain's Jeremy Bates downed David Rikl of the Czech Republic 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; American Chuck Adams defeated Martin Damm of the Czech Republic 3-6, 6-2, 6-3; Nigeria's Sule Ladipo eliminated American Jonathan Stark 7-5, 6-4; Sweden's Thomas Enqvist downed Austrian Alex Antonitsch 6-1, 4-6, 7-5; and Italian Stefano Pescosolido defeated France's Lionel Rout 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7-3).

## Romario and Co.: Saints or smugglers?

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — They left the United States as World Cup champions, saints in deans, symbols of hope in a country bled by official waste and corruption.

A day after coming home, they were tax cheats, shameless smugglers, symbols of selfishness and greed.

Brazil's national soccer team went from idols to scoundrels last Wednesday by refusing to pay \$1 million of customs duties on personal items bought in the United States during the World Cup.

It dampened the euphoria that swept across this soccer-crazed country and triggered a scandal that muddled the president, the finance minister and the head of the Brazilian Soccer Confederation.

The nation's tax chief quit in disgust the day after President Itamar Franco overruled his order and told customs officials at Rio's international airport to waive through all excess luggage on the team plane.

All 17.4 tonnes of it. "Nobody can be above the law," said Osirios Lopes Filho, who resigned as federal revenue secretary. "Everyone, not only the middle class and the poor, must pay taxes."

The debacle touched off a nationwide debate on ethics in Brazil, a country where authoritarianism, nepotism and paternalism form a recipe for a sharp social and economic inequalities.

"What a sad spectacle," said the newsweekly *Veja*, in a cover story titled "The Star Smugglers."

"The team missed a great chance to show us that even heroes must comply with obligations and laws every Brazilian must follow," the magazine said in an editorial.

Signs of trouble began to appear the day after the World Cup final when the Varig DC-10 carrying the 97-member delegation was delayed for four hours in Los Angeles because of excess weight.

After marathon parades in Recife and Brasilia, the de-



Brazilian national soccer players Bebeto (left), Ricardo Rocha (centre) and Romario (right) Sunday pose with their honour trophy received for the Brazilian victory in the 1994 World Cup before a soccer match between Vasco and Grêmio at the Maracanã Stadium (AFP photo)

legation arrived in Rio close to midnight Tuesday for a four-hour ticker-tape parade for an estimated 1 million fans.

Brazilian law permits citizens to bring up to \$500 worth of items purchased abroad into the country duty free.

That's why customs officials got suspicious when five, 30-foot (10-metre) moving trucks rolled up to drive the team's luggage to the hotel.

The unloading took time. Among other things were 18 television sets, computers, refrigerators, fax machines, laser printers, microwave ovens, gymnastics equipment, a barbecue grill, dishwashers and even a leather horse saddle.

Customs official estimated that defenders Jorginho and Branco brought back a combined total of \$8,800 in electronics and housewares. Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira had \$5,000 worth of computer and TV equipment.

All in all, about \$1 million

in duties had to be paid. Lopes Filho ordered the baggage held and inspected.

Ricardo Teixeira, the confederation president, called the stars down from the fire truck that would escort them through Rio. They removed the merit medals awarded at the presidential palace and threatened to boycott the parade.

"We didn't smuggle anything," said striker Romario. "We represented Brazil before 2 billion people around the world. If they don't release my luggage, I'm giving back my medal."

It was midnight. In any other country the victory parade might have been postponed until morning. But in the land where soccer is almost a religion, a call came from the presidential palace.

The order from Finance Minister Rubens Ricuperlo: Let the baggage through, un-inspected. Let the party go on.

"That goal scored by Branco to break the 2-2 tie against the Netherlands was worth a

hell of a lot more than lousy refrigerator or a TV," Teixeira told the newsweekly *Veja*.

Rio customs chiefs said they would sue the soccer confederation for non-payment of the duties. A host of top government officials pointed fingers and denied they gave the order to waive through the baggage.

Only one player, midfielder Mauro Silva, offered to pay his share.

Nationwide polls showed 79 per cent of Brazilians thought their heroes should have paid up.

But few — not even Attorney General Aristides Junqueira actually think the team will be beaten in court.

"No one has a list of what was actually brought in," he said. "It's foolish to think you can win an action like this without any proof."

Amen, say the saints of soccer.

"It was such a little thing," Romario said. "Why is everybody making such a big deal about this?"

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Leeds set deadline for Skuhravy deal

LONDON (R) — English premier league club Leeds have almost given up hope of signing Genoa's Czech international striker Tomas Skuhravy. Leeds Managing Director Bill Fotherby Monday extended the deadline for a deal until 1600 GMT Tuesday but admitted: "I will be surprised if the transfer goes ahead." After eight hours of negotiations with the Italian club's President Aldo Spinelli, Fotherby revealed a last-minute hitch had held the three million pounds sterling (\$4.5 million) transfer in jeopardy. "We have agreed everything with Skuhravy and Genoa but there is a financial complication between the player and his club," he said. "If it is not resolved the transfer cannot go ahead."

## Moroccan player joins Sporting Lisbon

NANTES, France (AFP) — Moroccan international Nourredine Naybet has signed a three-year contract with Portuguese club Sporting Lisbon, officials of his French first-division club Nantes said. Sporting paid just under 9 million francs (\$1.6 million) for the 24-year-old.

## Lalas gets Italian welcome...

PADUA, Italy (AFP) — American World Cup defender Alexi Lalas was welcomed by hundreds of Padua fans here Tuesday following a tug-of-war over the 24-year-old's signature. Lalas looks set to join the newly-promoted Serie A side, despite the rival attentions of English sides Coventry and German team Bochum. Club president Sergio Giordani, who is reported to have paid \$200,000 for the player for a year's loan, said: "I'm sure he'll like it here. He's more interested in the place than the money."

## ...and so will Dumitrescu

PADUA (AFP) — Romanian international Ilie Dumitrescu also looks on the verge of joining Padua. The club's directors travelled to Steaua Bucharest Monday and agreed terms with the player but his fee has yet to be thrashed out.

## Effenberg wants to leave Italy

ROME (AFP) — German international Stefan Effenberg, sent home in disgrace from the World Cup for making an obscene gesture at fans, wants to leave Italian club Fiorentina after reports it was set to sign Brazilian Marcio Santos. "There won't be any room for me when he arrives," said mid-fielder Effenberg. "My contract runs to 1997 but I hope president Cecchi Gori will let me go — I've got plenty of offers."

## Rugby player cleared of killing

LONDON (AFP) — The first Rugby Union player in the 171-year history of the game to be accused of killing a rival on the field, has been acquitted by a court. William Hardy, 25, was charged with the manslaughter of Seamus Lavelle as a result of a clash during an amateur match in March last year. Lavelle died of head injuries two days after the incident, in which Hardy had allegedly "poleaxed" him with an uppercut to the jaw. Hardy did not dispute he lashed out at 16-stone forward Lavelle during the ill-tempered encounter between his club Centaurs and Hendon. However, his claim of self-defence was accepted by an Old Bailey jury. Hardy said afterwards: "I am relieved I have been cleared but I shall carry on grieving for him. I am still upset someone has died."

## Rugby star fined for punch

CHALON-SUR-SAONE, France (AFP) — Former French rugby captain Laurent Rodriguez was fined 6,000 francs (\$900) for punching an opponent and breaking his jaw here on Tuesday. Rodriguez was charged with knocking out Pascal Picamélet during a match between U.S. Dax and RC Chalon September 26. The prosecutor had also called for a 15-day suspended jail sentence but the court decided the offence should not go down on Rodriguez's record after hearing he was not a violent player and had shown remorse. The judge was told the clubs were back on friendly terms and Picamélet and RC Chalon had withdrawn their complaint. Rodriguez played 55 internationals, including six as captain.

## Olympic medallists turn professional

TORONTO (AFP) — Canadians Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler, ice dance bronze medallists in the Lillehammer and Albertville Winter Olympics, announced here Tuesday they were quitting competition to concentrate on a professional career. Brasseur, 23, and Eisler, 32, become world champions in 1987, were also four-time Canadian champions.

## Blackburn star's injury misery

LONDON (AFP) — England international midfielder David Batty will be out of action for three months with a broken bone in his right foot. Batty, bought by Blackburn Rovers for £2.75 million from English Premiership rivals Leeds United last season, will have an operation later this week. Meanwhile defenders Sost Campbell and Stuart Nethercott and midfielder David Howells have all signed new four-year deals for their club, Tottenham Hotspur.



## Simpson lawyers plead for samples of blood for independent testing

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson's lawyers and prosecutors sparred Monday over control over blood samples, with the defence demanding the right to independently analyse blood found at the murder scene and Simpson's home.

The judge first proposed a compromise, then postponed a decision on the matter.

"This goes to Mr. Simpson's right to due process, to equal protection, to have a fair look at the evidence so we can present our case to a jury in a fair manner," said defence attorney Robert Shapiro.



O.J. Simpson

The request was made at a hearing that marked Simpson's first appearance before superior court judge Lance Ito, the judge assigned last week to hear Simpson's trial.

The judge declined to rule Monday, saying he needed testimony from expert witnesses on how much blood is needed for prosecutors to have proper tests. Another hearing was set for Friday.

"I sense that this is critical evidence in the case," he said. "The record is not complete here. I do not have enough scientific evidence to make a ruling at this point."

Ito proposed giving the defence access to 10 per cent of the samples, but delayed his decision after deputy district attorney Marcia Clark told him: "You are taking evidence out of our hands forever."

Ito did allow prosecutors to begin testing some blood Thursday at a lab in Maryland, two days later than planned to give a defence expert time to get there to participate in the procedure. Ito left until later a decision on how to handle leftover samples.

Prosecutors hope so-called genetic DNA fingerprinting and other tests on blood and other physical evidence can tie the former football star to the June 12 deaths of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. Defence lawyers hope independent tests will cast doubt on Simpson's guilt.

The test results are to be compared with blood and hair samples taken from Simpson, 47, who has pleaded innocent to two counts of first-degree murder.

Shapiro specifically asked for samples of blood drops found at Ms. Simpson's home, blood on a glove at the condo, blood drops on the driveway and in the foyer of Simpson's estate, blood on the glove found behind his house and smudges on Simpson's Bronco.

Clark strongly objected to the request, saying in some cases there wasn't enough blood to share without affecting the outcome of the highly sensitive DNA tests for genetic make-up.

"What (defence) counsel is really trying to do is compromise the evidence," he said.

Even in a hearing on a subject as dry as scientific testing, there were sharp clashes between the prosecution and defence.

Shapiro called prosecutors "hypocritical" in their contention they wanted to preserve evidence because they themselves had used up some of one sample before the preliminary hearing.

Clark offered to let the defence's own expert conduct some of the tests as long as a prosecution expert witnessed the procedures. The defence didn't respond to the offer.

Ito, whose every move will be closely scrutinised in the highly publicised case, handled the hearing in a relayed, businesslike fashion, even joking he was a little out of his league in discussing DNA testing since the kind of science he studied in college was political scientists call DNA deoxyribonucleic acid — defines each individual's unique genetic code. Some scientists' greatest forensic breakthrough since fingerprinting. Others argue it is subject to contamination and laboratory error and cannot be trusted.

Defence lawyers also planned to ask prosecutors Monday to turn over nearly all their reports and leads. They claim that prosecutors were so eager to bag a celebrity, they overlooked information that would exonerate Simpson.

They asked for police reports on prowlers and burglaries in Ms. Simpson's neighbourhood in the six months before the slayings; a search of computer records for a match to unidentified fingerprints from the slaying scene; police reports of similar unsolved killings in the state over the past year; and criminal histories of everyone involved in the case.

They also asked to see reports of any internal investigations involving detectives assigned to the case and hospital records on anyone bitten by a dog in the 24 hours after the deaths. Ms. Simpson's dog led a neighbour to the bodies.

## Schumacher stunned by 2-race ban

PARIS (AFP) — German driver Michael Schumacher was stunned here Tuesday as Formula One ruling body FIA banned him from two Grand Prix and handed him a six-point penalty.

The decision follows a controversial black flag incident in the British Grand Prix earlier this month — and looks set to throw the drivers' championship wide open.

Runaway leader Schumacher, who is now left with 66 points to British driver Damon Hill's 39, is almost certain to appeal against the verdict, which would allow him to drive in his home Grand Prix at Hockenheim Sunday.

But the Benetton Ford star would then have to look on from the sidelines at the Hungarian (August 14) and Belgian (August 28) races, where Hill could pick up a maximum of 20 points and reignite the season.

Schumacher, already fined \$25,000 for the incident, was accused of ignoring a five-second stop-and-go penalty, followed by a black flag, at Silverstone July 10 after he had overtaken Hill on the warm-up lap.

The black flag meant disqualification but Benetton team chief Flavio Briatore — whose team have been fined \$500,000 — convinced the race marshalls there had been a misunderstanding.

He explained Schumacher did not realise he had to stop and believed the penalty would be added onto his time at the end of the race.

The German was forced into the pits but then allowed to continue, eventually finishing second — earning the six points which have now been docked — almost 19secs behind Hill.

FIA president Max Mosley said: "Schumacher said he did not see the black flag. The world council found this explanation unacceptable."

Schumacher, who won six out of this season's eight races, is desperate to race at the German Grand Prix. He came third at Hockenheim two years ago and took



German Formula One driver Michael Schumacher (right), flanked by Benetton's manager, Flavio Briatore, arrive Tuesday at the International Automobile Federation (FIA) headquarters after being summoned by the Special World Council after Britain's Grand Prix in Silverstone. Below, Britains Formula One Pilot Damon Hill arrives also at the FIA headquarters (AFP photos)



second place last year.

Hill himself avoided a sanction after being accused of stopping during his victory lap to pick up a Union Jack flag. Hill argued he had not

stopped, merely slowed down.

Two other drivers, Rubens Barrichello and Mike Hakkinen, were given a suspended one-race ban after colliding on the final bend at Silverstone. That ban could be activated if they are guilty of further offences in the next three Grand Prix.

## Atlanta sets up housing for Olympic visitors

ATLANTA (R) — A local property coalition Monday was given the job of assembling a network of thousands of private homes and apartments for lease to visitors during the 1996 Olympic Games.

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG), the private non-profit group charged with

organising the Olympics, named Private Housing 1996 Inc. as the official private housing coordinator.

Private Housing 1996, a corporation formed by leading Atlanta real estate brokers and property developers, will put together an initial housing inventory offering 6,000 beds to the so-called extended Olympic family, including journalists and business sponsors.

"Meeting the needs of the Olympic family is our first priority. Beyond that, however, the door is wide open to assemble an even larger inventory of homes and apartments for lease to the general public when tickets go on sale next spring," Private Housing 96 President Jerry Warshaw said.

Housing sites will generally conform to ACOG's list of sports venues, set mainly near the Georgia cities of Atlanta, Savannah and Athens.

Guest rates for homes range from \$150 per bedroom per night for a 14-day stay in a house with a tax-assessed value of up to \$110,000 to \$425 per bedroom in homes valued at up to \$600,000.

The Saudi federation is to send an under-23 side to the October event in Japan.

Velappan said: "You have to understand how tired the World Cup squad is. They have basically been training since last October."

Velappan also said he preferred seeing under-23 rather than national sides compete for the Asian Games. This is

## Bobby gets knighted

LONDON (AFP) — Football legend Bobby Charlton was knighted by the Queen at Buckingham Palace Tuesday.

And the man who won 106 caps and played an inspirational role in the English World Cup victory of 1966, admitted: "I was far more nervous than when I was playing for England."

He insisted that he should be called Sir Bobby rather than the more formal Sir Robert.



Bobby Charlton

He was accompanied by his wife Norma and daughter Suzanne, a BBC TV weather forecaster, and Andrea.

## Kiwi athlete escapes drugs ban

WELLINGTON (AFP) — New Zealand Commonwealth Games hammer thrower Angus Cooper escaped a drugs ban when Athletic New Zealand (ANZ) cleared him of cheating here Monday.

Cooper tested positive for banned substance pseudoephedrine at the national athletic championship of Hamilton in March.

But an ANZ tribunal ruled: "The tribunal was completely satisfied there was no attempt by Cooper to cheat or take a substance that was for the purpose of enhancing his performance."

Cooper took an over-the-counter treatment for cold or flu, the tribunal said.

He took a nasal decongestant because he was suffering from a cold during the national championships and advised officials of the medication at the time.

Part of Cooper's defence was that pseudoephedrine was not a substance banned by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF).

Although the drug is not listed by name, ANZ decided that because it was so closely related to ephedrine, a named banned substance, it fell under the "chemically or pharmacologically related compounds" definition put out by the IAAF.

Under IAAF rules a three-month suspension was immediately imposed when Cooper first tested positive. That ban has now been served and Cooper is able to compete at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada, next month.

Cooper will appeal against the ban at the IAAF arbitration panel. He is challenging the classification of pseudoephedrine as a performance-enhancing substance.

ANZ's three-man doping panel originally agreed to keep the names secret because it feared legal appeals.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH CHAN SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH  
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#### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

with an artificial game forcing bid of two clubs. What action do you take?

A.—You certainly want to preempt—the question is how high? "There's no 'correct' answer to this; it's largely a matter of style. Our choice would be to bid four hearts and let the opponents guess what to do at a very high level when they have not yet shown a real suit. Even a full-blooded five hearts would not be out of line."

Q.5.—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠A787 ♠A8 ♠98543  
The bidding has proceeded:  
East South West North  
Pass Pass 1♣ 1♥  
Pass ?  
What do you bid now?  
A.—A difficult problem. You have too much to keep silent, but no convenient bid. Since partner can pass your call, neither one spade nor two clubs is attractive. The best of a bad bunch is a raise to two hearts, even though you are a trump short for this action. Partner will not be disappointed when you contribute two aces to the cause.

Q.6.—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠K9832 ♠5 ♠10 ♠J108764  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?  
A.—If you have any regard for coin of the realm, you will pass. Not much harm can befall you if you overcall one spade. The problem comes when the opponents bid on and partner has a reasonable hand. He might get you too high, or double the opponents into game.

Q.7.—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠K987654 ♠K7432 ♠A ♠Q8  
Do you open the bidding and, if so, in which suit?  
A.—This is a marginal hand, but possession of both major suits confers a huge tactical advantage. We would choose one spade for our initial salvo, allowing us an easy rebid in hearts. If we were to open one heart, we would have to suppress our spade suit, since the hand isn't strong enough for a reverse.

Q.8.—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠10 ♠K97654 ♠A ♠K432  
Your right-hand opponent opens

## Saudis defended over Games snub

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Asian Football Confederation General Secretary Peter Velappan Tuesday defended Saudi Arabia's decision not to send their World Cup side to the Asian Games in October.

The Saudi federation is to send an under-23 side to the October event in Japan.

Velappan said: "You have to understand how tired the World Cup squad is. They have basically been training since last October."

Velappan also said he preferred seeing under-23 rather than national sides compete for the Asian Games. This is

more in keeping with the age requirements for the Olympics football competition, he said.

Hong Kong press reports said the side which defeated Belgium and Morocco on their way to the second round of the World Cup finals had "cheapered" the Asian Games.

Velappan said the Saudi decision also conformed with the AFC's determination to convince the OCA to switch the Asian Games from a national to under-23 level, in line with the Olympic's football competition.

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# Jordan says Oslo talks are no secret, part of multilateral decisions

## Jordan, PLO and Israel draw up terms of reference for regional study

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Tuesday rejected the characterisation as secret of a round of talks it held with Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Oslo, Norway, on water and said the meeting was part of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process.

Munther Haddadin, head of Jordan's team negotiating water-sharing in the region, also said the Oslo meeting did not produce any agreement but it approved the terms of reference for a Norwegian sponsored study on water institutions and laws and regulations related to water in the Middle East.

"There is no truth to reports that the meeting produced an agreement," Dr. Haddadin told the Jordan Times. "Nor was the meeting any secret."

He was referring to reports in the Oslo media and also carried by some international agencies which described the talks as secret and implied that the discussions somehow run parallel to the negotiations on regional water-sharing held as part of the 33-month-old Arab-Israeli peace process.

"The Norwegian government invited parties involved in the water negotiations to a meeting and we accepted and also contributed to the deliberations and outcome of the meeting," Dr. Haddadin said. "It was not a meeting of the steering group of the multilateral committee," he

added. Dr. Haddadin said the meeting drew up the terms of reference for conducting a "regional comparative study," as called for by the multilateral group on water when it met last in Muscat, Oman, in April.

Zafer Al Alem and Ali Ghezawi, both members of the Jordanian delegation to the multilateral group, attended the meeting along with Riyadh Al Khodary and Fadal Kawash from the Palestinian side and Avram Katz-Oz and Ilan Baruch of Israel.

A Norwegian press release identified the objective of the study project as providing "the participating parties with an overview of water management bodies, legal issues (such as water laws, rules and regulations), and economic issues (such as water supply economics and pricing)."

"The study will serve as background information for all parties towards enhancement of future regional cooperation in water management," it said. "Results of the study may also assist in the structuring of the newly established Palestinian Water Authority."

In an implicit call on Syria and Lebanon, which have made their participation in the multilateral phase of the peace process on progress in their bilateral negotiations with Israel, the press release said: "The participation of Syria and Lebanon in particular, and other interested parties in the Middle East would

be welcomed."

The initiative is financed and sponsored by the Oslo government and helped by the World Foundation for Environment and Development-Oslo under the leadership of Professor J. Martin Trolldenier with assistance from Professor Just Gjessing from the University of Oslo.

"Water is the symbol of progress and development, and we must preserve it as a natural, god-given gift," Prof. Trolldenier television told Norway's NRK. "Giving water away is almost impossible."

Dr. Haddadin emphasised that the workings of the Oslo meeting had no bearing on the bilateral Jordanian-Israeli negotiations on water-sharing. He noted that the two sides held their last meeting in Wadi Araba on their southern border last week.

During that meeting, Israel, for the first time, agreed to discuss Jordan's demand for a fair share of the waters of the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers in the north.

The discussions will resume in early August.

"It's going to be a very important step... to achieve understanding on water between the partners in the Middle East," Israeli delegate Katz-Oz told NRK.

"Certainly we're still waiting for two other parties... the Syrians and the Lebanese, to join us. If we achieve that... that will be a full answer for this very important step here," he said.

## Israel-PLO talks resumed

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) met Tuesday in Cairo to discuss transferring control of education and health to Palestinians throughout Israeli-occupied territory.

"It is a test," Nabil Shaath, the Palestinians' chief negotiator, told reporters. "If we succeed today and tomorrow to transfer the authority of education and health... transfer of authority in every field will be easy."

Dr. Shaath referred to such areas as tourism, taxation and social welfare. Under the May accord giving Palestinians limited autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, transfer of these to PLO control in the rest of the West Bank was to be negotiated.

The talks on transfer of power were held for three days last week with both sides saying they were near agreement on education and would work on health this week.

Riyad Zaanoun, health minister of the new Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho, said Tuesday that he hoped to convince Israel of the need to adopt a comprehensive health plan throughout the territories.

He also said he was counting on the return to the West Bank and Gaza of exiled Palestinian doctors to help meet the pressing medical needs of the Palestinians.

Dr. Shaath said security talks were delayed because Israeli negotiators were in Washington attending the summit between the Jordanian and Israeli leaders.

Security issues include Palestinian prisoners, border crossing points, and the size of Jericho.

The last round of talks stumbled over education, with the Palestinians demanding legislative and executive power in that field.

Israel wants to keep in place Jordanian and Egyptian education regulations, which are applied in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip respectively.

Dr. Shaath held intense 90-minute talks with Israeli delegation head General Danny Rothchild, then the rest of the Israeli team before his own delegation members joined him.

Details of the talks were not revealed.

King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday signed an accord in Washington officially ending 46 years of hostility.

## 3 detained in connection with Buenos Aires blast

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — Authorities arrested two men and an Iranian woman Tuesday in the July 18 bombing of a Jewish charity that killed at least 85 people and injured some 250 more, officials sources said.

Ten more people were still missing and feared dead, officials said.

The woman was carrying an altered passport when she was arrested at Ezeiza international airport, according to federal police sources quoted by Telam, the state news agency.

One of the men detained reportedly sold the van used in the car bombing of the seven-story Argentine Jewish Mutual Association building. The identities of the three were not immediately released, and there was no information disclosed about the third suspect.

Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella will meet with the U.N. Security Council on Thursday to provide details of the bombing and the investigation under way, officials said.

Mr. Di Tella, in a closed-door session, will ask the

council members for a show of solidarity in condemning the attack.

Accompanying Mr. Di Tella to the United Nations will be Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella, who met here for two hours Monday with Iranian Ambassador Hadi Soleiman Pour.

Besides Mr. Soleiman, the ambassadors of Lebanon and Syria also met Monday with foreign ministry officials.

A fundamentalist Islamic group Ansarollah issued a statement referring to the attack late Friday that mentioned Monday's bombing as well as an attack Tuesday on a Panamanian commuter plane that killed 21 people, including 12 Jewish businessmen.

But the statement did not directly claim responsibility for the two attacks.

Nor is there any established link between Ansarollah and better-known Iranian-backed groups like Hizbollah.

The foreign ministry said it was maintaining contacts with the Iranian government on the case, and was not

currently considering any diplomatic steps against Iran as investigators reportedly were looking into an Iranian lead in the case, in Venezuela.

Meanwhile Panama President Guillermo Endara was quoted as saying Tuesday U.S. and Panamanian investigators have concluded that a bomb caused the plane crash last week that killed 21 people.

The Panama-America newspaper quoted Mr. Endara as saying investigators had "definitively" concluded a bomb caused the commuter plane to explode in mid-air shortly after takeoff from the Atlantic port city of Colon, killing all 21 on board.

Mr. Endara said suspicion is focused on an unidentified victim of last week's crash who officials believe is from Lebanon. Officials in the president's office were not immediately available for comment on the report.

Panamanian investigators said in a statement late Monday that the explosion that brought down the plane originated beneath one of the plane's seats.



WHITE HOUSE DINNER: Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor with U.S. President Bill Clinton (left) and First Lady Hillary Clinton (third from right), and Israeli

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his wife Leah Rabin at the White House late Monday attending a dinner hosted by the Clintons (AFP photo)

## Car-bomb explodes near London Israeli embassy

LONDON (AP) — A bomb hidden in a car shattered the Israeli embassy Tuesday and broke windows in surrounding buildings and a royal palace. At least 15 people were treated for injuries but no one was killed, police said.

"It was such a huge, huge explosion, parts of the building just collapsed," said Rachel Gordon, who works in the embassy's press office.

A Scotland Yard spokeswoman said: "Anti-terrorist branch officers have confirmed that the explosion appears to have been caused by an explosive device in a motor vehicle." She said all the injuries were minor.

No one immediately claimed responsibility.

Scotland Yard said the car, which was destroyed, had been parked on a grassy area at the front of the embassy along Palace Green, a street that runs past the palace.

The blast came a day after Jordan and Israel officially ended decades of hostility at

a ceremony in Washington, and eight days after a bomb at a Jewish centre in Buenos Aires, Argentina killed 80 people. Officials suspect ultranationalists or Middle Eastern groups in that attack.

"When we heard the explosion we immediately laid down on the floor," said Amir Maimon, the second secretary at the embassy.

"Right afterwards we evacuated people from the embassy to Hyde Park and sent people home," Mr. Maimon said. "There was no panic. Everything is under control and thank God we are all alive."

Steve Partridge, who said he was about 20 metres from the explosion, said the street "was full of bits of vehicle."

"It felt like bits of glass were flying everywhere. All the windows in the surrounding buildings were smashed out," said Mr. Partridge.

Peter Seabright, who works at the Royal Gardens Hotel near the embassy, said the Israeli building had been

heavily damaged. "It was like one story was on top of the other," he said.

Police kept reporters and cameras well away from the building.

The embassy and surrounding buildings were evacuated and police cordoned off the area. Some people sat on the sidewalk of Kensington High Street, a busy commercial area, trying to keep working with pocket calculators.

Witnesses reported seeing a plume of smoke, but the London fire brigade said there was no fire.

Boaz Modai, a spokesman in the situation room at the Israeli foreign ministry said on Israeli radio that three embassy employees were lightly injured.

"There is no doubt in my mind that we face a wave of extreme Islamic radical movements in the Arab-Muslim countries," Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview with NBC News in the Un-

ited States.

"They have the infrastructure all over the world, in the United States, in Europe, in Latin America," Mr. Rabin said.

Michael Whine, defence director of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said the group had approached police last week asking that they ban parking outside Jewish buildings. He said there had been no response.

The Israeli embassy, which formerly belonged to a famous Anglo-Jewish family, the Montefiores, is protected by a high gate. Visitors are only allowed in after speaking through an intercom.

There is a police sentry box at the entrance to Palace Green and officers check all visitors. Plainclothes Israeli security officers were on the sidewalk, and uniformed London bobbies stand across the street.

Similar precautions are enforced at the consular section, at the rear of the embassy.

## Attas visits Cairo ahead of Geneva talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — A top southern Yemeni leader arrived Tuesday to meet with Egyptian officials ahead of this week's reconciliation talks in Switzerland between the northern-led government and the defeated south.

Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas, who is also a former prime minister of the united Yemen, was expected to meet with foreign minister Amr Musa.

Mr. Attas will lead the separatists' delegation to Thursday's talks in Geneva with his former foes in meetings that will be attended by U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi.

The two-month war broke out May 4 after months of feuding between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the southern leader, Ali Salem Al Beidh, over the pace of integration between the former North and south Yemen.

After their defeat earlier this month, the top southern leaders — including Mr. Beidh — fled to Oman taking with them warplanes, warships and military vehicles that Sanaa now wants back.

President Saleh, a northern, has declared a general

amnesty. The two states merged four years ago in a move that was welcomed by the population. But the two armies were never fully merged and the sides' politicians could not agree on the division of power between leaders from the conservative north and the socialist south.

A U.N. statement said the two sides would meet on Thursday under Mr. Brahimi, who is trying to restore peace to Yemen after the civil war.

"The object of the meeting is to explore the possibility of engaging upon a worthy and reasonable political dialogue in a spirit of mutual respect," the statement said.

The government will be represented by Abdul Karim Al Iryani, minister for planning and development, and Abdullah Saleh Al Ashtal, ambassador to the United Nations.

The south will be represented by Mr. Attas and Abdullah Al Asnag.

Mr. Attas told Reuters in Abu Dhabi on Monday that he hoped the Geneva talks could "lay down the peace" for future negotiations between the two sides.

"We have a lot of proposals. If the north is really keen to come to peace and stability it can work," he said.

A senior Yemeni government official, Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, said the talks were the continuation of those held in New York while the war was still on.

U.N. spokeswoman Therese Gastaut said the talks, which were being held at the request of the parties themselves, were "exploratory" and would probably last two or three days.

A leader of the southern Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) Monday accused the government of carrying out reprisals against YSP members who stayed in Yemen at the end of the civil war.

"Our property has been confiscated and destroyed, our budget is frozen and our members are afraid," YSP Member of Parliament Ali Saleh Obad Mokbel said.

Mr. Mokbel, one of four YSP politburo members who stayed in Sanaa, added: "We can't even publish a newspaper because the government took our printing presses away."

Mr. Mokbel, who comes

from the southern city of Zinjibar, said his homes in Aden and Zinjibar had occupied by northern forces since the war.

He said YSP members were expecting further "subtle reprisals" like losing their jobs.

But he said: "The chief problem is the crusade against us," from the Islamic Al Islah party.

Al Islah is part of the ruling coalition in Sanaa, along with the YSP and Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress.

Its leading theorist is Abdul Majid Zandani, a member of the presidential council.

"Sheikh Zandani continues to call us infidels and he and other imams (prayer leaders) tell the masses on Fridays that we do things prohibited by Islam," said Mr. Mokbel.

"Every Friday religious leaders speak out against socialists. It really is like a crusade."

Mr. Mokbel also said that thousands of Yemeni soldiers in exile should be allowed to return to Yemen.

He estimated that over 15,000 Yemeni soldiers are in exile, most in Oman and Saudi Arabia. Some 200 exiled soldiers have been allowed to return to Yemen already but much more had to be done, he said.

## Israel seals off 2 Lebanese villages

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — The Israeli army on Tuesday erected a wall of sand around two villages in South Lebanon in apparent revenge for guerrilla attacks that killed an officer and wounded 13 soldiers.

Israel also warned of "painful" reprisals against the Hizbollah group, which claimed responsibility for Monday's attacks which were followed by an Israeli air raid on Hizbollah strongholds in South Lebanon.

The latest surge in violence came a week after the July 18 bombing of a Jewish charity in Buenos Aires, which killed at least 89 people.

Israel blamed Hizbollah and Iran for the bombing and warned of reprisals, although both sides denied any involvement.

"Our reaction will be considered not painful for Hizbollah," Israel's military coordinator for South Lebanon, Uri

Lubrani, said on Israeli military radio after Monday's attacks.

He accused Iran on supplying weapons and giving instructions to the Hizbollah aimed at undermining the Middle East peace process and charged that Syria had the means to rein in the guerrillas "if it so wishes."

According to Lebanese police, around 30 soldiers backed by a Merkava tank and bulldozer moved two kilometres north of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

The soldiers built an earth embankment on the road linking Yohmor and Arnun with Nabatiyeh, the main town of South Lebanon, and the rest of the country, police said.

The two villages face the sector where Hizbollah guerrillas killed an Israeli officer and wounded 13 soldiers, one of them seriously, on Monday.

Around 12 militiamen from Israel's South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia armed with machine-guns meant while strafed a valley north of the "security zone," used by Hizbollah guerrillas to carry out attacks, police said.

The operation lasted nearly two hours but there were no casualties, police added.

In March the Israeli army had imposed a similar blockade on Yohmor and Arnun, isolating for three days the 250 families who live there, in reprisal for an anti-Israeli attack.

On Saturday Israeli troops also abducted a Yohmor resident, Qassem Riham, on the Nabatiyeh-Arnnu-Yohmor road, accusing him of spying for Hizbollah. His relatives denied the charges.

Security sources reported that SLA members on Monday blew up Mr. Riham's house in Yohmor with explo-

sives. Yohmor residents who could not reach their village, 20 kilometres northeast of Nabatiyeh, staged a sit-in outside the local office of the International Committee of the Red Cross in this market town. They issued a statement calling on international organisations to intercede with the Israelis to lift the siege.

Hizbollah was on maximum alert Tuesday.

Hizbollah disclosed that a guerrilla was killed in one of the attacks in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon. Five Lebanese civilians were also reported wounded in artillery duels that followed.

The group went on maximum alert overnight Monday and several guerrilla leaders evacuated their homes in fear of reprisals, security sources in the Bekaa Valley said.



## Out goes the dull old registry office in U.K.

LONDON (R) — Britons who eschew romantic church weddings will no longer be doomed to marry instead in soulless state offices, parliament has decided. The House of Lords passed a bill allowing hotels, stately homes or other suitably respectable places to host civil weddings, which now may only take place at a registry office. British church weddings, recognised as legal by the state, have been proving a big attraction among American tourists this summer following the U.S. success of the comedy film Four Weddings and A Funeral. But British couples who forego them have until now also had to lose much of the pageantry of their wedding day. Backing the act, Baroness Jay told her lord and lady colleagues in the unelected house that she married four months ago "in a typically antiseptic 1950s registry office." Baroness Jay, 55, said the lighting had been "unattractively fluorescent" — even for brides many years younger than I am — and prominent signs for nearby toilets had hung from the walls. But the act's advocates reassured their tradition-bound colleagues it would certainly not lead to "Las Vegas-style wedding parlours" popping up across the land.

## World population may jump one-third by 2025

WASHINGTON (R) — The population of the world could soar by three billion people — from six billion now to nine billion people — in 31 years, a population report said. The Population Reference Bureau, which keeps tabs on population growth, said the new estimate by an Austrian scientist, Wolfgang Lutz, is about 500 million people more than projected earlier by the World Bank and the United Nations for the year 2025. Mr. Lutz's research at Austria's International Institute for Applied Sciences predicts higher fertility in Africa and other developing nations than did the World Bank and United Nations, which partly accounts for his higher prediction, the Population Reference Bureau, a private organisation, said.

## Islamic preacher held for kissing women's navels

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A self-styled Islamic preacher has been detained in Malaysia for kissing the navels of his women followers as a "graduation" ritual, the New Straits Times reported Tuesday. The Islamic Religious Department in Malaysia's southern state of Johor picked up the unidentified Indonesian Monday after a husband complained his wife had given all their money to him. At least 40 women, most of them government workers, have been identified as followers, said Shafiee Hashim, the Religious Department's director. He said the women refused to cooperate. "It's as if they are under a spell," the newspaper quoted Mr. Shafiee as saying, adding the preacher will be prosecuted in an Islamic court.

## Taiwan accepts women in army, navy schools

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's army and navy academies will admit women students this year for the first time, the Defence Ministry said Tuesday. "This is a progressive decision because we all know women are as capable as men," a ministry spokesman said by telephone. Fewer men are applying to enter military schools while the number of women interested in becoming soldiers has increased in recent years, he said. A total of 35 women will be accepted in the army and navy academies this year, and the air force academy will open to women soon, he said. Women are already being trained at the military's political strategy school and most work as teachers but do not see active service. It was unclear whether the military's first women students would become soldiers.